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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Ohio nightclub shooting: Mourners attended a funeral Saturday for one of the four victims of a nightclub shooting, a fan of "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott who a witness said had tried to save the heavy-metal guitarist.

While most concertgoers rushed for the exits after Abbott was shot by a longtime fan of his former group, Pantera, Nathan Bray jumped up on stage, held Abbott and tried to perform CPR, said Adam Vanover, 45, of Bellefontaine.

Popcorn-lung trial: A liability lawsuit against the manufacturers of an artificial butter flavoring used at a popcorn plant has ended in a settlement.

Attorneys for plaintiff Samantha Taffner and defendants International Flavors and Fragrances and Bush Boake Allen Inc., which International purchased in 2000, told Jasper County Associate Judge Stephen Carlton they reached a deal Friday, after a 10-day trial.

Taffner, 28, is one of about 30 former workers at the Gilester-Mary Lee Corp. plant in Jasper and their spouses who have sued the manufacturers, claiming they should have known the chemical diacetyl, used to make the butter flavoring, causes lung damage.

World

Arrest in U.N. hostage-taking: A dissident member of a militant Islamic group that kidnapped three U.N. workers in Afghanistan provided the tip that led to the arrest of the organization's leader, a Pakistani security official said Sunday.

Syed Akbar Agha, a former Taliban front-line commander in Afghanistan who later founded Jaish-ul-Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, was captured in the southern city of Karachi last week.

Iran nuclear talks: Iran and the European Union will begin comprehensive talks on Tehran's nuclear activities this week, official media reported Saturday.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rowhani, will meet foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in a joint session. The timing of that meeting was not clear.

Filipino politician in coma: An action film star who narrowly lost this year's Philippines presidential elections and then sought to nullify President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's victory has suffered a stroke and is in a coma, his spokesman said Sunday.



Taiwan election: Chen Chien-ming, front, a Taiwanese lawmaker with the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), cruises the streets of Taipei on Sunday on top of a jeep thanking voters for their support. Three opposition parties teamed up Saturday to elect President Chen Shui-bian's pro-independence coalition, in an election expected to calm U.S. fears that the island was headed toward a conflict with rival China.

Fernando Poe Jr. complained of dizziness while drinking and dining with friends and employees in his suburban Manila film studio. He was brought late Saturday to a hospital, where he was in an intensive-care unit, said his spokesman, Rep. Francis Escudero.

Poe, 65, later slipped into a coma and doctors needed to conduct more tests over the next 72 hours to predict his chances of recovery, Escudero told reporters.

Darfur crisis: Egypt said Sunday that Sudan is working to solve the crisis in Darfur but needed more international assistance, not criticism.

Following talks between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Sudanese leader Omar el-Bashir, Mubarak's spokesman urged the international community to redouble its efforts to end the crisis.

Nearly two years of fighting in Sudan's western Darfur region has killed tens of thousands and left nearly 2 million homeless.

Gaza-Egypt border explosion: A tunnel filled with explosives detonated Sunday under the Israeli checkpoint on the Gaza-Egypt border near the town of Rafah, military officials said.

The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said there were Israeli casualties. The Israeli rescue service ZAKA said three people were seriously wounded. Isra-

el Radio said seven people were being treated at the scene.

A Palestinian militant giving his name only as Abu Majad said gunmen attacked the Israeli position after the blast. He claimed responsibility in the name of the Fatah Hawks, an offshoot of the mainstream Fatah Party, and the violent Islamic Hamas.

War on terrorism

Hostages released: A Sri Lankan truck driver held hostage by Iraqi militants for 43 days returned to the island Sunday.

Dinesh Dharmendra Rajaratnam, 37, was in Iraq working for a Kuwaiti-based transport company when he was abducted along with a Bangladeshi colleague, Abul Kashem, near a U.S. military base.

Kashem, 42, is expected to return home soon, officials said.

Gitmo review tribunals: A 28-year-old Iraqi man accused of fighting for the ousted Taliban regime five years ago appeared Saturday before a military review tribunal in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said.

The military accused the prisoner of fighting against the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance in 1999, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals. His identity was not released.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Female troops have new 'Choices' at Iwakuni

Program allows young women to seek comfort, support with mentoring, training

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

Women new to military service at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station now can tap into the wisdom of those with more experience through the new Choices mentoring program.

The first meeting, held Nov. 24 at the Marine Memorial Chapel, drew 50 participants.

Master Sgt. Diane Rowe, Iwakuni's Equal Employment Opportunity adviser, said base women are enthusiastic about the Choices effort.

"Just the other day, a few days after our first meeting, a few of the female servicemembers who attended ran into each other by chance at the Eagles' Nest," a base restaurant. "I watched as they greeted each other with hugs."

"That's something you don't expect to see around here, and it made me really happy to see the

bonding taking place already," Rowe said Thursday.

Navy chaplain Lt. Carla Barry and Rowe began organizing Choices after hearing of a similar effort in Naples, Italy.

Barry described Choices as designed to support through professional and personal mentoring and training. No such base-wide mentoring program was in place for younger servicemembers at Iwakuni, she said.

The program, they stressed, isn't rank-based and is voluntary. It will address such issues as finances, health, drug and alcohol abuse, birth control, date rape

and other life issues, they said.

"Maybe she has never had any personal encounters with a male. And maybe she needs someone to talk with about that," Rowe said.

"We've some women who are older can provide some form of direction. It's about women helping women."

"We also plan to have guest facilitators to come and help us meet the needs of the younger female servicemembers," Barry added.

The program's target audience is female service members with ranks of E-1 through E-5, but all are welcome, Rowe said.

Cpl. Martha Garcia, 28, a motor-transport driver with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, said she attended the first meet-

ing and left sold on the program.

"I came in (to the military) a little later in life than most so I'm fairly new to the service," Garcia said. "Choices is going to be very positive, especially to have someone to look up to and relate to. When I came into the military, I had no military background, and it's important to be able to speak freely and ask questions."

Lance Cpl. Lydia Daveys, 21, from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, attended the first meeting and said she looks forward to the next, set for Wednesday.

"It's a great program because there are so few female Marines and sailors here and it's good to draw them together, to get to know others. Female Marines and sailors here are anxious to develop closer relationships, and learn from the life experience of others with more experience," Daveys said.

Rowe said self-esteem is a key

to female servicemembers' success.

"We also plan ... to teach self-love. Now, that may seem a little different to most people; however, once you can accept yourself it can and will enhance your readiness for your command," Rowe said.

When she was a young Marine, Rowe said, she had a hard time expressing herself to others; a program such as Choices would have helped.

"In my view it's time to give back," she said. "Our young Marines and sailors are our future, so let's equip them with all the tools they need."

The Choices program will meet from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the 15th of each month at the chapel.

Call Barry at DSN 253-3371 or Rowe at DSN 253-4186 for more information.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@strips.osd.mil

Pet supplies needed

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Pets Are Worth Saving (PAWS) is holding a donation drive to collect food and supplies for animals in the organization's shelter.

PAWS is looking for donations of food, litter, new or used kennels, supplies, toys and even office materials like computer paper. Donations can be made at the office, in building 4-1260 across from the taxi office, by calling DSN 243-9996 or via e-mail at usskittytalk@yahoo.com.

For those interested in a new friend, animal adoptions are held from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Saturday of each month.

Tops In Blue shows

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Air Force's Tops In Blue singing group is to perform a pair of free concerts Dec. 28-29 at the Taiyo Recreation Center. Show time is 6 p.m.

The troupe's 2004 show, "Musicalology," is an elaborate mix of American music — presented with some help from technology.

Now in its 51st year, Tops In Blue tours bases throughout the United States and visits more than 23 countries. It stages more than 150 shows each year, including at installations in Iraq, Qatar, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

This year's cast includes Senior Airman Jamie Montgomery, a command post controller with Yokota's 730th Air Control Maintenance Squadron. The Oklahoma City native made the tour as a vocalist.

Call Bob McFall at DSN 225-6980 or visit www.topsinblue.com for more information about the Yokota shows.

Halo Xbox Tournament

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The Mokuteki Community Center will hold a Halo Xbox Tournament from 8 p.m. to midnight Dec. 23 in the Vortex game room. Participants must be 18 or older. Call DSN 226-4128 for more information.

From staff reports

American and Japanese students participate in educational mixer

BY JULIANA GITTNER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — They were bashful and talked about the things teens love, mostly sports and music. Whatever language they spoke, some things were the same.

Japanese-language students from Zama American High School welcomed a class of ninth-graders from Aletheia Shonan Junior High School in Chigasaki for a cultural exchange Thursday.

"They laugh at the same kinds of jokes. Even though we're from different cultures now, we're all human," said 11th-grader Paul Fengolio from Camp Zama.

"You get to actually see the similarities between us," said 10th-grader Justine Matsuka from Sagami-hara Housing Area. "They're normal teenagers just like us."

The students began with a short introductory period and then joined the Americans for lunch in either the school cafeteria or the food court. They ended by joining the American students for a class.

"We try to get a cross-cultural experience," said Akiko Miura, host-nation teacher at Zama, who organized the event with friend and Aletheia Shonan teacher Ayumi Usui. The Japanese school's students had visited Atsuta Naval Base in the past, but that program was canceled after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"They want to experience American-style school life," Miura said. Aletheia Shonan student Akio Mutaguchi, 15, said he was nervous when he had to introduce himself to the group at the beginning of the day. "I couldn't speak very well," he said in Japanese.

To prepare for the visit, the Japanese students learned about the history of the U.S. bases in Japan.

We told the students that they are going to visit America in Japan," said Aletheia Shonan teacher Naoko Shiori.

Students on both sides said they learned a lot about their counterparts.



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Japanese language teacher Akiko Miura works with Japanese students to choose what class they would like to attend with the students at Zama American High School. The annual event lets Japanese students experience the differences in the two school systems.

Yukiko Ueda, 15, had never met Americans her age. She was surprised to see American students driving when they took her around the base.

"I couldn't speak that much," she said. "When they explained in English, they spoke slowly and I thought they were nice."

Kiriko Ono, 15, said she thought American students were "cool."

"Everything, from their looks to how they acted," Ono said.

Most of the students, although shy, seemed to enjoy the visit. "I am having fun and everyone's funny," said Tomoki Kanai, 15.

He visited a home economics class and tried ice cream.

The Zama students also gave their visitors goodies such as chocolate-chip cookies and popicles.

The students will visit Zama American High School will visit Aletheia Shonan early next year.

"I'm looking forward to seeing their school," said B-J Dowell from Atsuta Naval Air Facility.

The exchange, he said, offers a chance to learn about Japanese students and "to make a few more friends."

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E-mail Hana Kusumoto at: kusumotoh@strips.osd.mil

IN THE WORLD

Philippine market blast kills 15

By JIM GOMEZ
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A powerful explosion ripped through an outdoor market packed with Christmas shoppers in the southern Philippines on Sunday, killing at least 15 people and injuring 58 others, the military said.

A homemade bomb or a grenade concealed in a box went off in the market's meat section in General Santos city.

Officials immediately stepped up security, fearing more attacks in the port city 620 miles south of Manila.

The explosion occurred far from Clark Air Base, where hundreds of Okinawa-based Marines and airmen are based while assisting the Philippine government with disaster relief efforts following three major storms.

"This is a terrorist attack by any measure," Philippine Sen. Richard Gordon, who heads the Philippine Red Cross, told ABS-CBN television.

He criticized the military and police for failing to prevent the attack despite what he said was intelligence information of an imminent terror strike in the city.

Army Col. Medardo Geslani, who heads a regional anti-terror-



ism force, said no group claimed responsibility and it was not yet clear if terrorist groups were involved.

"It was most possibly caused by an improvised explosive device," Geslani said.

Islamic and communist rebels operate in provinces near General Santos, and despite a crackdown by the military and police, Muslim militants are believed to still have a presence in the predominantly Christian city of 500,000.

Police investigator Capt. Maxi-



Police investigators inspect the meat section of a public market in General Santos city in southern Philippines following an explosion Sunday that killed at least 15 people and wounded 58 others.

mo Sebastian said three people were instantly killed by Sunday afternoon's bomb blast and other victims died in hospitals.

"The market was packed with people because there were Christ-

mas flea market stalls there, and the explosion was powerful," Sebastian told The Associated Press by telephone.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.

Yushchenko calls for poisoning probe

VIENNA, Austria — Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko called for an investigation into who poisoned him with dioxin but said Sunday it should wait until after this month's presidential run-off, as he checked out of a Vienna clinic where the poisoning was diagnosed.

Doctors at the clinic called the poisoning potentially a "criminal case."

The opposition leader is facing a new runoff vote on Dec. 26, ordered by Ukraine's Supreme Court, which ruled that results in the initial vote on Nov. 21 were tainted by fraud.

Yushchenko fell ill Sept. 5 and had been treated at Vienna's elite Rudolfiner clinic twice before, but it was tests performed since he checked in Friday night that provided conclusive evidence that he had been poisoned, said hospital director Dr. Michael Zimpfer.

From The Associated Press

U.S. soldier wins first Afghanistan marathon

The Associated Press

THIRN KOT, Afghanistan — A U.S. soldier won Afghanistan's first marathon Sunday, battling the country's thin mountain air for more than three hours before crossing the finish line, where he promptly burst into tears remembering four comrades killed in recent fighting.

A total of 184 soldiers and civilians working for the U.S. military took part in the race at Firebase Ripley, facing high altitude and a bumpy track as well as the threat of attack.

Plastic palm trees among the gun stores and bunkers near the course lightened the mood for the runners, who the Afghan Na-

tional Olympic Committee said were competing in the first marathon in the war-ravaged country's history.

But the darker side of their mission surfaced as the winner labored across the finish line after five long laps of the airstrip to cheers and handshakes in 3 hours, 12 minutes and 15 seconds — an impressive time for the conditions. The first woman to finish was Spc. Jill Stevens, a 21-year-old from Utah, whose helicopter battalion is deployed at Bagram Air Base near Kabul.

"I love Afghanistan, and the views of the mountains during the race were great," she said after recording a time of 3:45:19 in what she said was her fifth marathon.

Palestinian apologizes for support of Saddam

By DIANA ELIAS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas apologized to Kuwaitis on Sunday for the Palestinians' support of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, making a gesture many here have long demanded as he launched a tour to repair relations with Arab nations.

Asked by reporters about Palestinian support for Saddam's invasion, Abbas responded: "Yes, we apologize for what we have done."

The Kuwaiti government, in a reconciliation gesture to the new Palestinian leadership, had said Abbas was welcome and apologies were not important. Abbas is widely expected to be elected in January to succeed Yasser Arafat, who died in November and had stormy relations with many Arab leaders at one time or another.

However, Abbas' visit remained controversial in Kuwait.

A group of lawmakers said in a statement Saturday that they "absolutely reject the visit" before the PLO offers an official apology to the Kuwaiti people for the sin it committed against Kuwait.

It wasn't immediately clear if Abbas' brief remarks at the airport would satisfy the lawmakers.

As PLO leader, Arafat supported Iraq in its 1990 invasion of this oil-rich country and opposed the subsequent U.S.-led Gulf War that liberated it. He never visited Kuwait afterward.

Some 450,000 Palestinians lived in Kuwait before the invasion.

Most were expelled or pressured to leave after the country was liberated. Scores of Palestinians were convicted after the war for collaborating with Iraqi occupiers.

Kuwait, however, continued to provide financial aid to the Palestinian people through the Arab League and international organizations. Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah also said Saturday that the matter of the Palestinian leadership's support for Saddam "has been closed."

Asked then if Kuwait was going to demand an apology, Sheikh Sabah said, "Why are we talking about apologies?"

While serving as prime minister last year, Abbas condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in an interview with the state-owned Kuwait News Agency. He said the Palestinian leadership's position was "incorrect" and he understood why Kuwaitis were "angry and reproachful."

He stopped short of apologizing.

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Evening Service	
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Youth Alliance Service	
Home Fellowship Group(s) (every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 1:30pm	
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	Charmante Service (3rd Friday of month) 6:00pm

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Japan official: Sanctions could topple Kim

BY AUDREY MCAVOY

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese sanctions on North Korea would have a severe impact on the reclusive communist regime, and could ultimately topple dictator Kim Jong Il if China joined in pressuring Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons program, a key ruling party official said Sunday.

Shinzo Abe said Kim could avoid being deposed by following the example of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who a year ago said his country would dismantle its programs for weapons of mass destruction and allow U.N., American and British inspectors to visit the facilities.

"If he doesn't make that choice, then there could be regime change. He must realize this," Abe said on a TV Asahi debate program.

Abe, the acting secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party, did not elaborate on how Kim might be removed from power.

He argued, however, that economic sanctions favored by most Japanese would deal a serious blow to the impoverished communist state.

Pressure is mounting on Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to ban North Korean

ships from Japanese ports, prohibit cash remittances to the communist state or impose other sanctions in an attempt to force Pyongyang to release information on Japanese kidnapped by Pyongyang in the 1970s and 1980s.

On Friday, an LDP group and a lower house committee passed separate resolutions calling for a freeze in humanitarian aid to North Korea and a threat of economic sanctions if progress is not made.



Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the Archbishop of Westminster, presided at Saturday's memorial service at Westminster Cathedral for Margaret Hassan, a respected aid worker believed murdered in Iraq. AP

Mass held to honor missing aid worker

BY JILL LAWLESS

The Associated Press

LONDON — Family and friends gathered at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday to remember Margaret Hassan, a respected aid worker abducted and believed murdered in Iraq.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, leader of Britain's 5 million Roman Catholics, celebrated the requiem Mass for a "gentle, private, brave, loving and compassionate" woman he called a martyr.

"I use the word advisedly, because the word martyr means witness," he said. "Margaret witnessed, in both her life and her death, to the act of loving."

A portrait of Hassan, who was kidnapped in October and whose body has not been found, was placed by the altar instead of a coffin. More than 2,000 mourners joined in hymns and prayers for Irish-born Hassan, who also held British nationality and had lived in Iraq for 30 years.

In a statement, Hassan's sisters and brother said they had been "overwhelmed" by the messages of sympathy received from around the world since a video purporting to show her death surfaced last month.

Hassan's Iraqi husband, Tahseen Ali Hassan, had been too ill to travel to Britain for the service, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Family friend Patrick O'Ryan-Roeder, who delivered a tribute to Hassan at the service, remembered her as "a much-loved wife, a much-loved sister, a much-loved aunt."

"I know that our thoughts and prayers have always been with Margaret, and I believe they should also be extended to her immediate family as they try to come to terms with their devastating loss," he said.

The Iraq director of aid agency CARE International, Hassan, 39, was abducted in Baghdad on Oct. 19 on her way to work. Her captors later issued videos showing her pleading for Prime Minister Tony Blair to withdraw troops from Iraq and calling for the release of female Iraqi prisoners.

On Nov. 16, the Arab satellite television station Al-Jazeera said it had received a video showing a hooded militant shooting a blindfolded woman in the head. British officials said they believed the woman in the video was Hassan, and her family said they believed she was dead.

Murphy-O'Connor described Hassan as "a peacekeeper in a time of seemingly endless wars. She hungered and thirsted for justice for the Iraqi people."

"She was persecuted, brutally slain, because she was working in the cause of right. Margaret is not merely a memory, she is part of all of us. She will not be forgotten."

Iran admits to terror convictions

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran acknowledged for the first time Sunday that it has convicted some Iranian nationals of supporting al-Qaida, saying the number was fewer than five.

The United States has accused Iran of harboring al-Qaida operatives, with some U.S. counterterrorism officials alleging hard-line elements within the Iranian regime may have developed working relationships with some senior al-Qaida officials who fled to Iran after the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. Iran has rejected the accusations.

Groups unite against Putin's reforms

MOSCOW — More than 1,000 activists, politicians and prominent Kremlin critics gathered on Sunday — Russia's Constitution Day — to seek solidarity in fighting for democracy and human rights and oppose what they called President Vladimir Putin's increasingly authoritarian rule.

The meeting made for an unusual alliance of liberals and communists who joined in urging broad political opposition to a series of Kremlin-sponsored political reforms that critics say will strengthen Putin's grip on the country at the expense of democracy.

Grenade attack injures 17 at concert

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Five people fought for their lives Sunday a day after a grenade attack killed

two concertgoers and wounded 17 at a controversial show featuring top Indian film stars in the Sri Lankan capital, police said.

The group of India's Bollywood movie idols, led by heartthrob Shahrukh Khan, were about 10 minutes from the end of the packed stadium concert — billed as Sri Lanka's biggest this year — when an explosion ripped through seating close to the stage.

Although none of the artists were hurt, they were rattled by the attack and left Sri Lanka earlier than planned, an organizer said on the condition of anonymity.

Myanmar releases political prisoners

YANGON, Myanmar — Two prominent pro-democracy leaders were among hundreds of prisoners released from a Myanmar prison on Sunday as part of a broad amnesty granted by the country's ruling military junta.

Htwe Myint, the 76-year-old chairman of the now-defunct Democracy Party, and Thu Wai, 73, one of the party's senior members, were driven together in a van from Insein prison in Yangon, Thu Wai said.

Both had been imprisoned there since 1995 after being arrested under the Emergency Provisions Act for distributing anti-government pamphlets. The act allows officials to detain suspects for up to seven years, but their terms were extended for unclear reasons beyond 2002.

From The Associated Press

Man-made assets accepted for Chinese beauty pageant

BY AUDRA ANG

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Nineteen finalists in China's first beauty pageant for women who have had plastic surgery took to the stage Sunday in a parade of glittering gowns and plunging necklines.

The contestants, heavily made up with hair expertly teased and waxed and posed as they were presented to reporters before the Dec. 18 final.

The competition and its novel pitch is another sign of China's increasing fixation with beauty as the country grows more prosperous and its people more conscious about looking good at any cost.

In the larger cities, cosmetic surgery has become the norm as more women — and some men — go under the knife to improve their looks.

"Before, I couldn't imagine that was possible to have places where the old could become young and the ugly could become beautiful," said Liu Yulan, who at 62, is the oldest contestant.

She has had a face lift and surgery on her eyelids.

"I'm not here for a prize," said Liu, who was wearing a form-fitting carmine Mandarin-collar dress with silver beading. "I want to show my attitude of my heart, my self-confidence."

The idea for the competition took shape shortly after an 18-year-old woman was disqualified from a Chinese beauty pageant earlier this year because she had had plastic surgery. She sued unsuccessfully for emotional damages.

Han Wei, one of the organizers, said there had been more than 90 applicants from other countries including the United States and Japan, but none were chosen because they weren't serious about the contest or had language or scheduling problems.



Contestants for China's first beauty contest for women who have had plastic surgery pose for photographers Sunday during a Beijing press conference. Nineteen contestants from around China will take part in the final contest Dec. 18. AP

IN THE STATES

White House says Kerik never disclosed concerns

BY JIM VANDEHEI
AND MIKE ALLEN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — White House officials Saturday blamed Bernard B. Kerik for repeatedly failing to disclose potential legal problems to administration lawyers vetting his nomination to be homeland security secretary, as President Bush prepared to quickly name a replacement and try to put the controversy over the former New York police commissioner's background behind him.

Kerik, who withdrew his own nomination Friday and apologized Saturday for embarrassing Bush, was asked numerous times by White House lawyers if he had employed an illegal immigrant or failed to pay taxes on domestic help, the sources said.

Kerik was told he would humiliate his family, himself and the president if he lied on either account, the officials said. He responded with firm denials. After digging deeper, however, Kerik said he discovered last week he might have a problem on both accounts, and withdrew.

In the vetting process, which

was conducted by the office of White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales, Kerik also never mentioned that a New Jersey judge had issued a warrant for his arrest in 1998 over a civil dispute over unpaid bills, the sources said. The existence of the dispute was first reported by Newsweek on Friday night.

It is unclear why White House lawyers could not uncover a warrant that Newsweek discovered after a few days of research, although some are blaming Bush's insistence on speed and secrecy for failing to catch this and other red flags in Kerik's background.

White House officials said they believed Kerik could have survived a controversy over the warrant in a civil matter.

Joseph Tacopina, Kerik's lawyer, said his client was not aware

of the warrant, which stemmed from a dispute over roughly \$5,000 in condominium fees.

Still, it was the nanny controversy, according to White House officials, that cost Kerik a high-profile job.

"This is my responsibility, this is my mistake," Kerik said outside his home in Franklin Lakes, N.J., in an interview broadcast by CNN on Saturday.

Bush plans to move quickly to name a replacement, although the few White House officials with knowledge of the short list would not speculate who it will be.

Other Republicans inside and out the White House said potential replacements include White House homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend; White House deputy chief of staff for operations Joseph Hagin; Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for transportation and border security at Homeland Security and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Leavitt. An announcement is expected before Christmas.

Washington Post writer John Mintz and researcher Karl Eversz contributed to this report.



Kerik

Bush plans aggressive push on clean air act

BY JOHN HEILPRIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush will make air pollution a top priority in Congress early next year, starting with "an aggressive push" to build support for his pollution-cutting plan, senior administration officials said Saturday.

At the same time, the administration will hold off until no later than March on a rule to cut pollution from power plants, the officials said.

The White House on Saturday told the Environmental Protection Agency of its game plan to allow time for Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., sponsor of Bush's "Clear Skies" initiative, to hold hearings on it in January.

"The president decided to make a strong push at the start of next year to complete his clean air and clean energy agenda," said EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, who met with Bush to discuss the strategy earlier in the week. "The centerpiece will be 'Clear Skies' legislation and/or the 'Clean Air Interstate Rule,'" Leavitt added in an interview. "Both of those will provide a 70 percent reduction of nitrogen oxides and of sulfur dioxide. It would be a \$50 billion invest-

ment in clean air; it would take more tons of pollution out of the air."

The Clean Air Interstate Rule would call for reducing pollution according to a timetable and strategy that closely mirror the proposals the administration offered nearly three years ago in a Clear Skies initiative that stalled in Congress.

Environmentalists, however, say the Bush legislative proposal carried by Inhofe goes further than the rule, weakening parts of the Clean Air Act.

"The Bush administration is now staking its money on a bill in Congress that weakens and delays public health protections already provided under the current Clean Air Act, while forcing the EPA to delay public health protections under current law," said John Walke, director of clean air programs for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The EPA will still send the interstate rule to the White House Office of Management and Budget on Monday for a 90-day review, and it will be made final by March unless Congress passes Bush's legislative plan by then, said Leavitt and James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

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U.S. taps into IAEA director's phone calls

BY DAFNA LINZER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has dozens of intercepts of Mohamed ElBaradei's phone calls with Iranian diplomats and is scrutinizing them in search of ammunition to oust him as director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, according to three U.S. officials.

But the diplomatic offensive will not be easy. The administration has failed to come up with a candidate willing to oppose ElBaradei, who has run the agency since 1997, and there is disagreement among some senior officials over how hard to push for his removal.

Although eavesdropping, even on allies, is considered a well-worn tool of national security and diplomacy, the efforts against El-

Baradei demonstrate the lengths some within the administration are willing to go to replace a top international diplomat who questioned U.S. intelligence on Iraq and is now taking a cautious approach on Iran.

The intercepted calls have not produced any evidence of nefarious conduct by ElBaradei, according to three officials who have read them.

But some within the administra-

tion believe they show ElBaradei lacks impartiality because he tried to help Iran navigate a diplomatic crisis over its nuclear programs. Others argue the transcripts demonstrate nothing more than standard diplomacy.

"Some people think he sounds way too soft on the Iranians, but that's about it," said one official with access to the intercepts.

In Vienna, where the IAEA is

headquartered, officials said they were not surprised about the eavesdropping.

"We've always assumed that this kind of thing goes on," said IAEA spokesman Mark Gwarddecky.

The IAEA, often called the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency, coordinates nuclear safety around the world and monitors materials that could be diverted for weapons use.

NASA head to resign

WASHINGTON — NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe will resign this week, a government official said Sunday, and a spokesman for Louisiana State University said O'Keefe is a leading candidate to become a chancellor there.

The committee looking for someone to fill the \$500,000-a-year job running the campus in Baton Rouge, La., meets Thursday, and O'Keefe will make his case for the job, search committee chairman Joel Tohlman said.

O'Keefe has led the space agency for almost three years, a tumultuous period marked by the loss of the shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts as well as budget battles and debates over the future of American space travel.

In April, a study of the post-Columbia effort to change NASA's culture found many problems remaining and space agency employees still afraid to speak up about safety. The leadership's got to take it on, starting with me," O'Keefe said then.

Dubai cargo secured

WASHINGTON — The United Arab Emirates is the first country in the Middle East to participate in a U.S. program intended to safeguard sea cargo from terrorists, U.S. customs officials said Sunday.

For the first time, U.S. customs inspectors will be stationed at the port of Dubai to screen sea cargo headed for America, the officials said. It's part of a U.S. initiative begun in January 2002 amid heightened concerns about sea cargo security after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Girl, 10, handcuffed

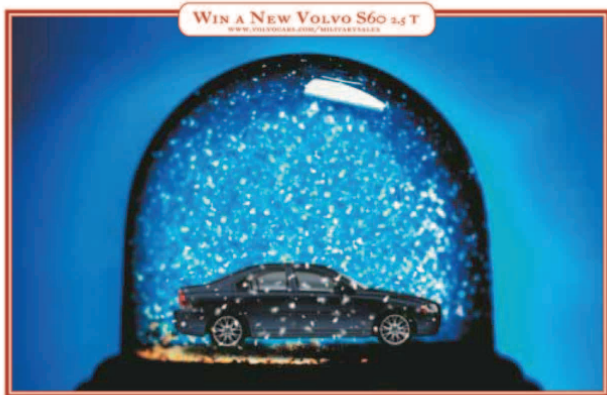
PHILADELPHIA — A 10-year-old girl was placed in handcuffs and taken to a police station because she took a pair of scissors to her elementary school.

School district officials said the fourth-grade student did not threaten anyone with the 8-inch shears, but violated a rule that considers scissors to be a potential weapon.

Administrators said they were following state law when they called police Thursday, and police said they were following department rules when they handcuffed Porsche Brown and took her away in a patrol wagon. Police officers decided the girl hadn't committed a crime and let her go.

However, school officials suspended her for five days.

From The Associated Press



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- 18 DECEMBER: RAMSTEIN COMMISSARY GERMANY

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Parity sinking USS Arizona memorial

Weight of larger-than-expected crowds causing visitors center to settle into ocean

BY JAYMES SONG
The Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — The USS Arizona Memorial's visitors center was designed to accommodate 750,000 people a year when it was built in 1980, but today it's jammed with crowds more than twice that big — and it's literally bursting at the seams.

Portions of the shoreline building and plaza commemorating the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor have settled as much as 30 inches and are still slowly sinking, and the concrete structure is cracking.

"Our office space is cramped, our visitor space is cramped, capacity is a significant issue on all fronts," said Douglas Lentz, the National Park Service superintendent in charge of the visitors center. "Then you've got the structural integrity of the building."

Crowds at the memorial have grown over the years as interest in Pearl Harbor has increased, fueled in part by Hollywood's sustained interest in World War II, including a blockbuster movie about the attack. The shock of the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001 drew comparisons to Pearl Harbor and sparked interest among a new generation.

A total of 2,390 people were killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack that drew the United States into World War II. The Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund is working to raise \$34 million to replace the visitors center, the starting point for ferry rides across the harbor to the white memorial that straddles the sunken Arizona, which still contains the remains of 1,177



U.S. NAVY/PA

The USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is a symbol of the beginning and the end of World War II. The Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund is working to raise \$34 million to replace the visitors center, rear, the starting point for ferry rides to the memorial, front.

sailors.

The group — whose honorary chairmen include actor Tom Hanks and Sens. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and John McCain, R-Ariz. — wants to raise enough money to break ground for a new center in three to five years. Matthew Sgan, the fund senior

vice president, said the group is very pleased with its progress and is soliciting corporate donations.

The one-story, open-air visitors center building was constructed on fill material that was dredged from Pearl Harbor decades earlier and was expected to settle 18

inches. Its architects even designed in the ability to raise the building using concrete shims.

But it already has been raised four times, causing cracks in the concrete walls that have exposed steel reinforcing rods to moisture.

Last year, engineers gave the building a life expectancy of just five to 10 more years.

Lentz said a new center will be built with lighter materials atop pilings that go deep into the ground to prevent sinking. There is also an option of building it on a floating foundation.

During the peak summer months, the center averages 4,500 visitors daily. Some of them have to wait for two hours to watch a 30-minute film — which includes U.S. and Japanese footage of the attack — and to be ferried out to the monument at the submerged battleship, which still leaks droplets of oil from its tanks.

The National Park Service estimated the memorial will attract 1.6 million visitors this year, up from 1.5 million in 2003.

Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, said he will push to make funding the project a "major focus" of the House Committee on Resources.

"When this was first put together, nobody had any idea that there was going to be this kind of ongoing response decade after decade," Abercrombie said. "Not only were the intentions good at the beginning, but I think the planning for it was as much as was able to be conceived at the time."

Ill. man who sacrificed organ for grandmother dies of gunshot wound

The Associated Press

ROSSVILLE, Ill. — Daniel Huffman gave up football eight years ago when he donated a kidney to his grandmother so that she could live. Now his grandmother has lost her hero.

Huffman, 25, was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head Dec. 6 at his home in central Illinois. Authorities said there was no sign of foul play, and family members and friends are struggling with the possibility that he may have taken his own life.

"He was always so happy, so fun," Huffman's grandmother, Shirley Allison, told the Chicago Tribune. "He put a lot of joy into everyone's life. He was always doing things for you, making you feel so special."

Huffman, a defensive tackle on Rossville's high school football team, decided to put away his football gear in 1996 for his grandmother, whose diabetes left her seriously ill and in need of a kidney transplant. Huffman, then 17, did some research and pressed doctors to allow him to be her donor.

He loved football, but the sacrifice meant he could no longer play contact sports. Huffman had the surgery the summer before his senior year, and word spread about the boy from Rossville, a small town about 130 miles southwest of Chicago.

Sports Illustrated did a story on him. He was honored with a Disney World World of Sports Spirit Award, and Florida State University gave him a scholarship even though Huffman couldn't play football again.

A television movie was even made about his donation: "Gift of Love: The Daniel Huffman Story" which stars Elise Hansen as Daniel and Debbie Reynolds as his grandmother.

Huffman didn't think of his donation as an act of heroism.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/AP

Shirley Allison, right, grandmother of Daniel Huffman, comforts Daniel's girlfriend, Becky Smith, in front of a collage of photos of Huffman in Rossville, Ill., on Friday.

"If you love someone and you can help them, any way you can, you're going to do it," he said in 1999.

Huffman spent three years at Florida State, working as an athletic trainer and later in the sports information office. He moved back to Illinois in 2000 after his grandfather died to help care for his grandmother.

Huffman began working in various security jobs, and every weekend he would visit Allison, take her shopping and do her laundry. Friends say he recently talked of completing his college degree, and dreamed of someday teaching college English.

His best friend, Shaun York, discovered Huffman's body in the garage. "There is no answer," he said. "No one knows why. No one. I've racked my brain ever since. I'm his best friend, just loved him to death and I just don't know."

Search teams comb hills for missing Ore. hunter

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

The Associated Press

BEAVER, Ore. — Kristen Childress was looking forward to celebrating her sixth wedding anniversary on Saturday. Instead, she spent the day in mountainous terrain looking for her husband, who vanished while elk hunting nearly two months ago.

At one time, some 300 searchers — including sheriff's deputies from seven Oregon counties — combed the steep gullies, old growth timber forests and dense undergrowth of northwest Oregon in signs of Jeremy Childress, who disappeared Oct. 17.

On Saturday, some 80 volunteers tried once more to find signs of Childress. The volunteers were mostly hunters themselves, some of whom know what it's like to be lost in the rugged area.

Kristen Childress said her husband, a 31-year-old industrial bridge painter, and two others lost track of camp looking for firewood on Oct. 16 and spent the night in their truck. The next afternoon, Childress headed into the woods on a hunch he could find the camp himself.

He had a rifle, a pocketknife and half a pack of Marlboros.

Kristen Childress said her husband probably kept moving on that foggy, rainy afternoon, even after dark, to stay warm. Deputies who searched the area, about 50 miles west of Portland, called it some of the roughest territory in the Northwest.

"If he hunkered down behind a log, he might have lasted a couple of days," said Tillamook County Sheriff's Deputy Don Taylor. "If he fell and had a compound fracture or was bleeding badly, he died that night."

For days after he disappeared, Childress' wife stayed in the mountains with the search teams, going home only occasionally to see her children. She said with bad weather and shorter days, the search Saturday probably would be the last until spring.

"I can hold on to that little bit of hope a little bit longer," she said. "But I know what reality is."

People who knew Jeremy Childress said he would not have run away. His wife dismissed the thought immediately.

"Everybody we talked to said he loved his wife and kid. He loved his job," Taylor said.

Oregon will not issue a death certificate for a missing person, so she can't get insurance benefits, or sell her husband's truck or boat to help with expenses. At some point, she said, she will have to go before a judge and have him declared deceased. She said she doesn't know when she'll be ready to do that.

In the meantime, Kristen Childress has been trying to explain her husband's disappearance to the couple's 3-year-old daughter, Kelsy. They also have an 8-month-old son.

"I tell her about her heart and in the stars," she said.

"She makes wishes to the stars and says, 'I love you.'"

FACES

Tom Hanks takes a ride on 'Polar Express'

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks used experimental technology to morph into a little boy, a train conductor, a hobo and Santa Claus for the adventure *The Polar Express*.

This is how he was able to co-star with himself: The two-time Oscar-winner climbed into something like a black wet-suit lined with neon-blue streaks and a tight cap, and had hundreds of glistening white specks on his face. Computers recorded his movements and expressions, which were then transposed onto his various characters.

With just a few more technological evolutions, "The Polar Express" may change the way people consider performance — actors would no longer be constrained by their own bodies.

Harrison Ford could be 80 and still playing a young Indiana Jones. Sean Connery could play himself circa "Dr. No" in a new James Bond movie. Jack Nicholson could star as a 16-year-old, and Haley Joel Osment could play a ghost.

Actors could swap and trade digital bodies: Tom Cruise could perform as Humphrey Bogart, Julia Roberts could try Rita Hayworth.

Or Eddie Murphy could play every character in a film — old, young, heavy, skinny, white, black, male, female — without any makeup or prosthetics.



Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks, left, wears digital sensors on his head, hands and face as he performs a scene from "The Polar Express." Hanks' performance was then digitally rendered, right, to create one of his characters in the film.

"The Polar Express" director Robert Zemeckis, renowned for using state-of-the-art effects in his films such as the "Back to the Future" trilogy, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" and "Cast Away," said the breakthrough came about four years ago when Hanks sent him a copy of the slim, beloved 1985 children's book by illustrator Chris Van Allsburg.

The actor wanted to see if it could be made into a film.

"I looked at these beautiful paintings and said, 'It's great but how are we going to do a movie like this?'" Zemeckis said.

"We thought about it, and thought about it and realized the emotion of the book was in the paintings. The story was really interesting but the paintings are what made that book so popular."

"We never thought it was appropriate for 'The Polar Express' to

be an animated cartoon," Zemeckis added. "And to do it live-action would not be absolutely true to the emotion of the book. So we came up with this process that we called performance capture. It's digitally rendered, but there's no animation."

By that method, he said, they were able to create the soft pastel imagery of Van Allsburg's book through computer technology but the characters were not manipulated by animators to coincide with the actors' voices, as in such films as "The Incredibles" and "Shrek."

Hanks was familiar with traditional computer animation from playing Woody the cowboy in the "Toy Story" movies: he recorded lines, then left the body to animators.

"This is not one of those movies," Hanks said. "Everything you

see (in "The Polar Express") performed by a human being was performed by a human being on a soundstage."

The sensors on Hanks' suit and face were recorded as he moved around a mostly vacant room, and those gestures and expressions were layered with a digital skin that moved in relation to the actor.

"There's no reason to do a movie like 'Mystic River' this way," Zemeckis said, referring to last year's effects-free, gritty drama that won Oscars for Sean Penn and Tim Robbins. "But there is the chance now to let imagination run wild."

Motion capture computerization became familiar to most moviegoers when actor Andy Serkis controlled the movements of Gollum in "The Lord of the Rings," and it's a common technique used on sports figures such as Tiger

Woods to animate their own moves in video games.

But the subtleties of human expression are so delicate that most eye, mouth and face movements traditionally have been left to animators, who frequently work from tapes of the actors.

"The Polar Express" pushed the technology into a new dimension by mapping the areas of Hanks' face with 152 sensors, so his instinctual movements control the faces of his characters.

"Believe it or not, the information would extend to a computer so you could tell the difference between a frown and a smile, eyes wide open, essentially every nuance that the human face can go through," Hanks said.

Occasionally one of the BB-sized sensors would fall off, Hanks said, which the computers rendered as if Santa's cheek or eyebrow suddenly stretching down to touch the floor.

Computer animators did come into the scene, however, to "take what we did and turn it into a little boy outside with snow falling down," Hanks said. Three other adults play children in the movie: Hanks' "Bosom Buddies" co-star Peter Scolari, "The Matrix Reloaded" actress Nona Gaye and Eddie Deezee, the nerdy character actor who is best known as Eugene in "Grease."

"It was ridiculous amounts of fun," Hanks said. "You just kind of have to forget an awful lot of what you're doing as an adult and take part, literally, in the recess atmosphere."

"The visual aspect of movies is beyond imagination," he said, "but the story is pretty much the same as in (Al) Jolson's time."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Dec. 13)	101.00
South Korean won (Dec. 11)	1,234.00
U.S. dollar (Dec. 13)	1.391
Euro (Dec. 13)	0.758
British pound (Dec. 13)	0.519

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.9147
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.8746
Philippines (peso)	61.135
Denmark (krone)	5.6166
Egypt (pound)	\$1.3219/7951

Hong Kong (dollar)	0.774
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.8746
Island (krone)	61.135
Israel (sheqel)	1.0514
Japan (yen)	101.00

Norway (kroner)	6.2112
Philippines (peso)	61.135
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	1.7509
Singapore (dollar)	1.0477
South Korea (won)	1.2340

Switzerland (franc)	0.6657
Thailand (baht)	36.572
Taiwan (dollar)	1.48275/000

Military exchange rates are those used by the U.S. military in the country of issuance. Commercial exchange rates are those used by the U.S. military in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany would be for reference to the U.S. facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign or U.S. dollars, except for the British pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile	
Gold	\$433.90
Silver	\$67.06

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	2.00
3-month bill	2.25
6-month bill	2.25

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Selling your home in winter

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Selling a home in wintertime can be challenging.

You can't dazzle prospective buyers with flowerbeds in the yard or with a freshly moved lawn, but there are some things you can do to make your home welcoming, even in the freezing cold.

Be sure that the walk is as lively shoveled and that walking surfaces are ice-free, write Shelley O'Hara and Nancy D. Lewis in their new book, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Buying and Selling a Home."

Clip any dead or ice-laden tree branches. Dead trees make your home look unappealing. Accumulation of snow or ice on branches, or even strong winds, can cause weak limbs to break. Ice-covered limbs can be particularly damaging to your home or car, not to mention dangerous to you and your visitors.

The same goes for icicles. They may look nice hanging from the eaves of your home, but make sure there aren't any that are hanging above where you and prospective buyers will be walking. Use a broom or long pole to gently knock them down.

You might also use holiday decorations to your advantage. Don't skimp on wreaths or lights, according to Bankrate.com. However, you should make sure that your home is decorated tastefully. Instead of jarring prospective buyers with a light display that can be seen miles away, go for a joyful look with simple lights, wreaths and candles.

Inside, keep holiday clutter to a minimum by selecting only a few of your favorite pieces to put on display. O'Hara and Lewis explain that you want people to remember the features of your home — not your motorized singing Santa Claus.

Mike Tyson arrested outside club

Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor criminal damage for allegedly jumping on the hood of a car outside a nightclub, police said.

Tyson, who moved to Scottsdale, Ariz., early this year, appeared with lawyers at the city's police station Tuesday afternoon and was released after being given a citation.

Scottsdale Police Detective Sam Bailey said Wednesday that Tyson likely will make an initial court appearance within 10 days.

Tyson allegedly dented the hood of a car when he jumped on it as its driver was leaving the club around 1 a.m. on Nov. 27.

Magazine to appeal costly ruling

Celebrity magazine Hello! plans to appeal a court ruling ordering it to pay more than \$1.9 million to a rival for printing unauthorized photos of Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, a lawyer for the magazine said.

Last year, a judge at the High Court in London ruled that Hello! had breached the Hollywood couple's commercial confidentiality by publishing snatched photos of their November 2000 wedding. Douglas and Zeta-Jones had signed an exclusive deal with rival magazine OK! for rights to pictures of the nuptials at New York's Plaza Hotel.

Judge John Lindsay awarded the couple token damages of \$28,000, but said OK! was owed more than \$1.9 million for commercial damage to its expected exclusive coverage.

Willis offers land donation for airport

Bruce Willis stole the show at the Friedman Airport Authority meeting last week, offering to donate a portion of land he owns at the eastern end of Camas County, Idaho, to help build a new airport.

Willis' proposal along Highway 20 is part of one of three sites being considered. The offer was unexpected, airport authority Chairwoman Mary Ann Jones said.

The actor, whose screen credits include the "Die Hard" movies, "Pulp Fiction" and "The Sixth Sense," pitched his plan at a meeting Tuesday.

From The Associated Press

TUESDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 14, 2004

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	•ESPNNews Pacific Report	•NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Tennessee Titans. From the Coliseum in Nashville, Tenn. (CC)						•ESPNNews Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)		
7	AFN-ATL	(5-46) Goran Win- jic (CC)	(38) Guiding Light (CC)	(17) General Hos- pital (CC)	Headline News (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)			I Spy (CC)	Animaniacs (CC)	
8	NEWS	Harshbarger With Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		FOX News (CC)		Fox and Friends		Fox and Friends		American Morning	
9	SPORTS	(15-00) College Basketball Wake Forest vs. Temple. (Taped)	•SportsCenter		•NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Chicago Bulls. From the United Center in Chicago. (Taped)		•SportsCenter				•NFL's Greatest Games	
10	SPEC	The Simpsons The Dad Who Knew Too Little!	Everybody Loves Raymond Holding the Key to His Short-term Memory (CC)	•SportsCenter Twilight: Archer Rising	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation A man found dead with a wooden stake lodged in his head. (CC)	James Van Der Beek	Friends Ross decides to move. (CC)	Seinfeld Jerry gets a van instead of a car. (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
11	AFN-HF	SpongeBob Burglar's (CC)	The Proud Family Amanda	Everwood Steve Job (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	The Cosby Show Home Improvement.	Home Improvement.	Touched by an Angel (CC)			
12	AFN-MO	Benito-Sanchez (15-1) - Extreme Ops	Ent. Tonight (2000) Drama: Pavey, Adam Garcia, Maria Bello	•"Coyote Ugly" (2000) Drama: Pavey, Adam Garcia, Maria Bello	•"I Love Trouble" (1994, Suspense) Rival reporters team up on a dangerous investigation. Pace: PG (CC)	•(8-56) *** "Wonder Boys" (2000) Michael Douglas, Tobey Maguire.	•(105) *** "The Crying Game" (1992, Drama) Miranda Richardson. An IRA man they are drawn to has his kidnaps victim's enigmatic love.	•(1992, Drama) Miranda Richardson. An IRA man they are drawn to has his kidnaps victim's enigmatic love.	•(1992, Drama) Miranda Richardson. An IRA man they are drawn to has his kidnaps victim's enigmatic love.	•(1992, Drama) Miranda Richardson. An IRA man they are drawn to has his kidnaps victim's enigmatic love.	•(1992, Drama) Miranda Richardson. An IRA man they are drawn to has his kidnaps victim's enigmatic love.	•(1992, Drama) Miranda Richardson. An IRA man they are drawn to has his kidnaps victim's enigmatic love.
13	TMC	Dragon Tales Whistling Wind (E)	Unzoo Pressed-for-place mats. (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Novas Dogs and More Dogs: The unique relationship between humans and canines. (CC) (DS)	Frontline "Diet Wars" Factors leading to obesity in America. (CC)	Independent Lens The Day My God Died Young girls are abducted from their villages. (N) (CC)	Charlie Rose Judith Miller (N) (CC)				
14	PBS	•"The Hours" (2002) Drama: Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Nicole Kidman. Three women in different eras suffer emotional crises. PG-13 (CC)		American Justice "When a Child Kills" The youngest American tried as an adult. (CC)	Paradise (2004) Drama: David Strathairn, Barbara Hershey, James Le Gros. A spiritual leader deals with complications. (CC) (DS)	•(35) *** "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" (2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)
15	SHOW	City Confidential A Playboy Bunny is charged with murder and goes on the lam. (CC)		American Justice "When a Child Kills" The youngest American tried as an adult. (CC)	Paradise (2004) Drama: David Strathairn, Barbara Hershey, James Le Gros. A spiritual leader deals with complications. (CC) (DS)	•(35) *** "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" (2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)
16	ARE	City Confidential A Playboy Bunny is charged with murder and goes on the lam. (CC)		American Justice "When a Child Kills" The youngest American tried as an adult. (CC)	Paradise (2004) Drama: David Strathairn, Barbara Hershey, James Le Gros. A spiritual leader deals with complications. (CC) (DS)	•(35) *** "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" (2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)	•(2002) Drama: Kieran Culkin, James Malone, Emily Sherry. Students plot against a nun who seized their comic books. (CC)
17	DISC	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	High Tech Toys	Future Tense	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
18	TFC	Wazz Up Wazz Up Star Circle Quest	OK, Fine	BET Style	(65) Insider Pipol	Kumikiting Kabuh Bian	Horning Star (Tagalog)	(40) Masayang Tanghal Bayan				
19	CNN-H	Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	CNN World News	World Report	Biz Asia	Business International		
20	GOLF	•European PGA Golf duntail championship - Third Round. From Melbourne, South Africa.			•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa	•Golf Channel Africa
21	TLC	Clean Sweep Barbara's Fantasy Cluster Bump A huge collection of DVDs has made a mess of the house. (CC)	American Hot Rod Alumabutt 4 African hot rod racing action! (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)	Overhaul "Coolcast Cars, Best Parts" 1971 Chevrolet. (CC)
22	TOON	Samurai Jack Dexter's Laboratory	Code Name: Kids Ned Flanders	Justice League New 52	Powerful Girls Cartoon Cartoon	Looney Tunes	I Am Weasel	What a Cartoon Show	Scoby-Doo, Where Are You!			
23	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter Bunny's "What's the Buzz" Making sense for alligators; 200 maintenance. (CC)	Most Extreme Thinkers Bess, octopus. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)	Austin Stevens: Snakehunter "In Search of the King Cobra" The world's largest venomous snake. (CC)
24	COM	100 Greatest Stand-Ups (Part 2 of 5) (CC)	The Daily Show Live Show (CC)	Mad TV (CC)	Frank Yanks Fred Armisen. (CC)	Reno 911 John Davidson discovers the life of a comedian. (CC)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)
25	NGC-A	Treasure Seekers Treasures of Mesopotamia.	Snack Wranglers Venomous snake. (CC)	Croc Chronicles "King of the Crocs" (CC)	Ghost of the Great Salt Lakes	Visions of Everest	Africa's Secret Seven	Going to Extremes: Wet				
26	SPIKE	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "You've Got Mail" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "You've Got Mail" (CC)	Hate My Job (N)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith
27	FOX	Remington Steele (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	The Rebel Billionaire Frank's Quest for the Best "England" Teams must find performers for V-Fest. (N)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)	House "Ocean's Rarities" A college student collapses after sex with his girlfriend. (CC)
28	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Ins.	BET Style	Source Awards Preshow (N)	Source Awards Preshow (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)	Source Awards 2004 Performances by hip-hop artists. (N)
29	COURT	NYPD Blue Spizack and Sonoran investigate the disappearance of two young boys. (CC)	Cops From Boston drug buy sting operation. (CC)	The Investigators "Missing in Atlanta" (CC)	Forensic Files North Mission Road (N)	Masterminds Caught Hidden cameras capture crimes. (CC)	Extreme Evidence The worst U.S. blackout. (CC)	Extreme Evidence The worst U.S. blackout. (CC)	Extreme Evidence The worst U.S. blackout. (CC)	Extreme Evidence The worst U.S. blackout. (CC)	Extreme Evidence The worst U.S. blackout. (CC)	Extreme Evidence The worst U.S. blackout. (CC)
30	STR-WL	The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	St. News Focus Asia	Friends (CC)	Kelly, Rubin & Fantasia: Home for Christmas (CC)	The Apprentice (CC)	UC: Undercover (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Fantasia & Fantasia: Home for Christmas	The Golden Girls Kelly and Fantasia are confirmed. (CC)
31	LIFE	The Golden Girls Beverly Hills is married. (CC)	The Golden Girls Beverly Hills is married. (CC)	•"Born Into Exile" (1997, Drama) Jane Phillips, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Tala Shire. Two teenagers run away from home and head to California. (CC)	Richie Rich's Christmas Wanz" (1998, Comedy) David Gallagher, Eugene Levy, Kenzie Cortez. Richie wishes to be never born after ruling Christmas. (CC)	Secret Allied Aircraft of WWII (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)
32	ABC-FAM	7th Heaven "Dick" The Rev. Camden Courtesie Peter and his soon-to-be sister. (CC)	Smallville "Accelerated" Lana is visited by the ghost of a child. (CC)	Richie Rich's Christmas Wanz" (1998, Comedy) David Gallagher, Eugene Levy, Kenzie Cortez. Richie wishes to be never born after ruling Christmas. (CC)	Secret Allied Aircraft of WWII (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)
33	HIST	Normans "Loss of Identity" (CC)	Tactical to Practical "Deep Undercover" High Tech Tactics: Aerodynamic "Underground action." (CC)	Wild West Tech Shogakukan and nob-beries. (CC)	Secret Allied Aircraft of WWII (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)
34	STR-MV	(5-45) *** "Dawg" (2002) Dennis Leary. Two men in a car. (CC)	(55) *** "Unfaithful" (2002) Drama: Richard Gere, Diane Lane, Olivier Martinez. A housewife has an affair with a charming stranger. (CC)	Wild West Tech Shogakukan and nob-beries. (CC)	Secret Allied Aircraft of WWII (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)
35	ADV 1	Panama Canal: The Mountain and the Mosquito	•"Spirit of the Sea" (1997, Drama) Jane Phillips, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Tala Shire. Two teenagers run away from home and head to California. (CC)	Richie Rich's Christmas Wanz" (1998, Comedy) David Gallagher, Eugene Levy, Kenzie Cortez. Richie wishes to be never born after ruling Christmas. (CC)	Secret Allied Aircraft of WWII (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)	Band of Brothers Easy Company spends Christmas in the trenches while trying to hold the line in the forest outside of Bastogne, Belgium. (CC)
36	MTV	Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County (N)	Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County (N)	Direct Effect	TRL (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	The Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)
37	NICK	Juice "Rugrats" SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Juice "The Wild Thornberrys" (CC)	Juice "Caldo" (CC)	Scaredy Camp Water balloon chomp. (CC)	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	All That	Even Stevens (CC)	The Brothers Garcia (CC)	Cousin Skeeter (CC)	Figure It Out (CC)	Legends of the Hidden Temple



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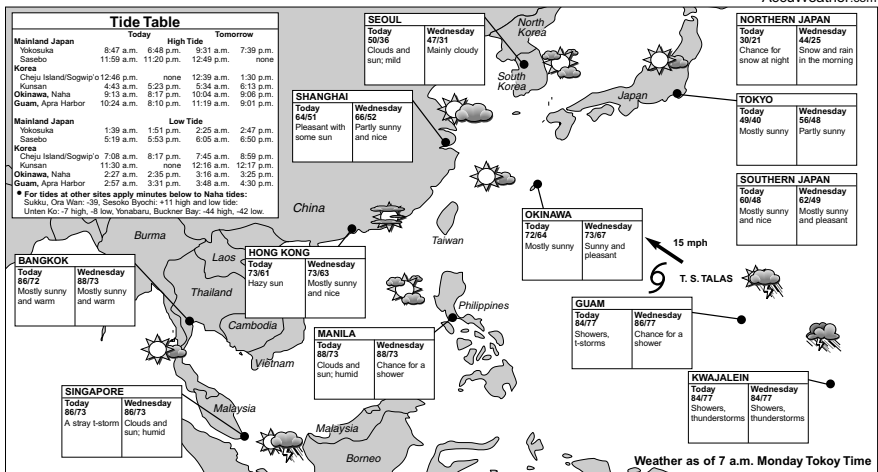
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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Thursday: Partly sunny, high 57, low 47. Friday: Mostly sunny, high 59, low 49.	KADENA Thursday: Showers, high 77, low 68. Friday: Showers, high 76, low 68.	SEOUL Thursday: Partly sunny, high 46, low 32. Friday: Periods of clouds and sun- shine, high 50, low 30.	MANILA Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 73. Friday: Showers, high 86, low 73.	HAGATNA Thursday: Showers, high 86, low 79. Friday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 79.
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Sunday's USA Temperatures

ATY	HIGHLOW	02/20	CITY	HIGHLOW
Albuquerque	59/29		Los Angeles	72/52
Anaheim	59/29		Little Rock	66/37
Amarillo	29/24		Louisville	51/32
Albany	51/32		Madison	69/49
Baltimore	51/37		Milwaukee	45/25
Birmingham	59/40		Nashville	53/35
Bismarck	34/12		New York	48/35
Boston	59/40		Omaha	51/32
Boston	44/36		Orlando	64/43
Brownsville	84/59		Philadelphia	49/37
Buffalo	37/31		Phoenix	80/54
Burlington	59/40		Pittsburgh	49/37
Charleston, SC	59/42		Portland, OR	54/44
Charlotte	55/38		Portland, ME	50/29
Chicago	59/40		San Jose, CA	69/49
Columbus, OH	40/32		St. Louis	57/26
Duluth	29/17		San Antonio	80/47
El Paso	71/39		San Diego	63/43
El Paso	37/31		San Juan	87/47
Helena	36/29		Tampa	63/45
Indianapolis	69/28		Tulsa	55/36
Jacksonville	41/40		Washington	51/33
Jacksonville	59/40		Wichita	61/36

Tuesday, December 14



U.S. Extended Forecast

Another storm system will move into the Pacific Northwest on Tuesday, and it will produce rain and mountain winds will bring lake-effect snow showers to the Great Lakes region. These same northwesterly winds will also create below-normal temperatures in many areas in the East. Some flurries are possible in the northern and central Rocky Mountains Wednesday. Another weak clipper system could push some flurries into northern Minnesota, and the cold air will remain in place over the Northeast. Snow showers are possible in the Great Lake and interior sections of New England Thursday.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	86/72	Iwakuni	58/46	Sasebo NB	62/48
Beijing	53/31	Kadena AB	72/84	Sapporo	30/21
Camp Casey	48/34	Kunsan AB	55/43	Seoul	50/36
Crisfield	59/46	Kwajalein	81/77	Shanghai	59/46
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	88/73	Singapore	86/73
Hagatna	84/77	Misawa AB	37/26	Sydney	78/54
Hanoi	75/57	Osan	50/34	Taegu	57/41
Hong Kong	71/53	Pertti	51/43	Taipei	62/50
Honolulu	81/66	Pusan	57/43	Tokyo	49/40

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Acapulco	90/72	Budapest	37/30	Kabul	52/27	Nairobi	79/54
Athens	51/38	Buenos Aires	87/70	Kiev	22/15	New Delhi	84/54
Auckland	67/53	Cairo	62/40	Kuwait	60/37	Oslo	41/37
Bahia	57/31	Cancun	75/59	London	51/45	Paris	86/67
Bangkok	53/43	Cardenas	26/20	Madrid	58/39	Rio de Janeiro	77/66
Barcelona	53/41	Geneva	44/37	Mexico City	58/30	Rome	56/45
Berlin	40/37	Istanbul	42/28	Montreal	21/17	St. Petersburg	29/26
Bermuda	91/75	Los Angeles	91/75	Mogadishu	17/12	Tokyo	12/10
Brussels	47/36	Johannesburg	87/59	Moscow	21/7	Warsaw	38/32



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OPINION

When holiday cheer meets harsh reality

BY KEVIN COWHERD
The Baltimore Sun

It's nice to see we're still being bombarded with the usual mixed messages this holiday season.

Where's your holiday spirit? Every one asks. Enjoy the season for once! Don't let the stress get to you! Then you turn on the 6 o'clock news and they're talking about red Christmas trees torching the house and outdoor lights on overburdened extension cords electrocuting the family pet and hot new toys the kids could choke on.

Reach out to loved ones this holiday season! everyone says.

Then you pick up a newspaper and it's filled with headlines like: "How to sit down to dinner with people you can't stand" and "Surviving the holidays with your dysfunctional-in-laws" and "Sure, you mother's a monster! But make the best of this Christmas!"

In the stores, crammed with stressed-out shoppers plunging into five-figure credit-card debt, the piped-in music assures: It's the most wonderful time of the year! But the morning talk shows are all about how to cope with depression, or seasonal affective disorder, or social anxiety triggered by the coming round of holiday partying, or a drinking problem.

"Good food with good friends — that's what the season's all about," screams the cover of every glossy entertaining magazine you pick up. But now, according to news reports, undercooked turkeys and salmonella poisoning are wiping out entire families, cholesterol levels are higher than the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and we've turned into a nation of big fat pigs.

On one of the cable news networks the

other day, the anchor began a "To Your Health" segment with this: "Most people gain around seven pounds during the holiday season — did you know that?"

Did we know that? How could we not know that? We've been hearing about how fat we're getting for 20 years now.

When the nutritionists are finished with all their gloom-and-doom pronouncements, the fitness experts finish the job of bringing us down. Look, they say, celebrate all you want. But find a way to burn those calories, or you'll blow up like a blimp and eventually keep off all the family and friends you left behind will hate you forever.

Go for a walk, they say. Hit the gym.

But who can hit the gym when there's a two-inch layer of ice on the car windshield and the Weather Channel's calling for sleet and the Old Farmer's Almanac is calling for an end-of-the-world snowstorm? If I die in a snowstorm, I want to die in my own house, not in a spinning class surrounded by 16 sweaty people in red unitards.

Here's another message you can't escape this time of year: Remember all the wonderful people you work with.

Great.

Then you show up at work one morning and the overly chipper woman who sits in the next cubicle chirps: "Let's do an office Secret Santa this year! Oh, c'mon, it'll be fun!"

No, it won't.

Let's face it: Is there anything that induces more stress during the holidays than Secret Santa? Pull a name out of a hat and buy a present for someone you barely know. Who thought this was a terrific concept? Spend too little, and you look like a cheap-skate. Spend too much, and it looks like you're showing off.



Even if you get the monetary amount right, you might end up giving a gift that offends a colleague. For instance, perhaps you remember that the person you're giving a gift to is a big dog lover. So you go out and buy a nice, I don't know, dog collar with little jingle bells or something. On the big day in which all the Secret Santas are revealed, that person opens your gift and stares uncomprehendingly at it for several seconds.

Then she blurts: "My Rexie died last week," and flees the room in tears.

Well, thank you very much. You just made the work environment a lot more pleasant.

Oh, well. At least there can be no arguing with the most venerable of all seasonal messages: Christmas is all about the kids.

This is why you show up an hour early at your child's school for her holiday recital... So you stake out your position 10 feet from the stage — elbows wide, feet planted, shoulders thrust back like an NBA center boxing out the other team's big man.

You wave at your child and smile and hold the camcorder steady for 90 minutes as you feel the first twinges of carpal tunnel syndrome in your wrists. Unless that's the holiday spirit you're feeling. Sometimes it's hard to tell from the other.

No kidding: Blue States wait, Red States procreate

For a country in which the Red States control the politics, the popular culture sure seems Blue. And not a cool Blue. Instead, it's a hot and sexy blue — call it Viagra blue. And yet for all the sex that everyone seems to be enjoying, not many children are being born.

James Pinkerton



Let's start with some recent movies. The sequel to "Bridget Jones's Diary" begins with the title character confessing that she has been with her current boyfriend for "six weeks, four days, seven hours and 17 ecstatic shags. Arr-

speakings of the quantification of carnality: "Kinsey," the story of the famous erotic researcher, declares, as its tagline, "Let's talk about sex."

In addition, two films starring Jude Law, "Alfie" and "Closer," feature single, childless yuppies in a roundelay of sexual couplings.

And for readers, the new sex-seller is Tom Wolfe's "I Am Charlotte Simmons," the ultimate dirty-old-man book.

OK, those are movies and books, and most adults don't go to movies or read books. But they all watch TV, where the new queens of the home entertainment system are "Desperate Housewives," and the most important males on that show are boy-toys. And yet older fellows are not forgotten on the tube; one might get the impression, from watching commercials, that the U.S. economy is sustained by sales of Viagra, as well as Levitra and Cialis.

Interestingly, when these aphorisms

are pitched to would-be "wild things," no reference is made to anything so old-fashioned as a husband or wife. Instead, the spots are completely neutral, legally and sexually, as they urge "partners" to get it on. And soon, no doubt, there will be a patch for women who wish to patch up their sex lives.

It's a free country, of course. Indeed, in terms of sex, it's getting freer. But can that sexual freedom last if the exponents of lifestyle liberation don't reproduce themselves? The nation's birthrate has decreased by half since the peak of the baby boom. The big ethnic families that once had six kids might now have three. But in places where the Sex Boom is still peaking, "families," such as they are, are typically childless. And in terms of future politics, three outvotes zero.

In past societies, rampant sexuality led to sterility, as a result of venereal disease. In

our time, promiscuous sex has survived both herpes and AIDS, and yet for millions, fertility has not survived promiscuous sexuality. Many of the most educated and affluent are, in effect, voluntarily sterile. Their bodies might have remained virus-free, but their values have changed permanently.

The idea that some would channel their sexual energy into pursuits other than procreation has frequently been associated with homosexuality. That is, gays and lesbians presumably have more energy, as it were, to throw into art, literature, or education. From royal salons to avant-garde garrets to abbeys and rectories, those with no reproductive outlet sublimated their passions into painting, writing or teaching.

But now, in a sense, everyone — straight as well as gay — is an artist. A performance artist, that is, with his or her own sexuality.

As any reader of Cosmopolitan magazine quickly learns, some women are avidly "keeping score," just like Bridget. And since none want the game to end just because of age, the market for sex aids, from pills to plastic surgery, will never end.

Except that it might end, as the children of the children-orientated pill up the vacuum left by the childless. To be sure, some kids born into even the reddest states turn out to be "blue" spontaneously, becoming Mid-night Cowboys. But if demographic destiny keeps grinding on, blue-state bohemos are destined to shrink. And so the red states will grow larger, culturally as well as politically.

So the randy, Bridget-y culture of the early 21st century will perhaps yield to a new way of life — in which a greater emphasis on fertility, as opposed to just sexuality, becomes the new primal value.

James Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



SpongeBob melts

CT NORWICH — The mystery of the disappearance of at least one 6-foot inflatable SpongeBob SquarePants has been solved.

It was not thievery at the Norwich Burger King. It was the heat.

Police said the case was solved after they learned that a restaurant maintenance crew discarded a deflated SpongeBob after it melted into the rooftop heating system air ducts.

SpongeBob had been a fixture on the roof for nearly a month before disappearing Nov. 30. The maintenance crew did not tell management of the meltdown and subsequent cleanup.

10 years for bank robber

CO DENVER — A woman accused of helping her boyfriend rob banks across the West like a modern-day Bonnie and Clyde was sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to repay \$231,000.

Nova Guthrie, 31, and her boyfriend, Craig Pritchett, were accused in a string of holdups in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Texas and New Mexico between 1997 and 1999. At one time they were on the FBI's most-wanted list.

Prosecutors said the pair netted about \$500,000 and used it to visit ski resorts and beaches around the world. They were captured in 2003 in South Africa, where they were living law-abiding lives under assumed names.

Pritchett, 43, was recently sentenced to 22½ years in prison and was also ordered to repay \$26,406.

Guthrie pleaded guilty last year to three robberies in a deal that called for a sentence of nine to 11 years.

Fisherman death

NC MOREHEAD CITY — A fisherman discovered an empty boat cruising off the North Carolina coast with its harpoon line in the water. When he reeled in the line, he found a live bluefin tuna speared on the end — and the captain's entangled body.

The captain, Bruce Bartlett of South Plainfield, N.J., apparently harpooned the fish, then got his left leg caught in the 200-foot line. Coast Guard officials said. When the tuna swam away, Bartlett was pulled into the ocean off Morehead City and drowned.

Bartlett was a commercial fisherman who traveled up and down the coast, Guard officials said. He was alone in the 35-foot boat, named Flat Calm, fighting a fish that can weigh from 200 to 500 pounds.

Naked nuisance

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A man wandered naked through residential streets and fought with police before being bitten by a police dog and subdued with the use of a Taser gun.

The man was taken to Hennepin County Medical Center, having been bitten by the dog in the groin area, police Lt. Medorin Arradondo said. He was reported in serious condition.

Neighbors said the man pounded on the doors of their homes,



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

sometimes swearing, and rang doorbells.

Libby Pomroy said she heard her dog barking in the back yard. "I looked out the kitchen window and there was this naked man chasing her around the yard," Pomroy said.

Expanding the state

NH CONCORD — Legislators say they will file bills next year to expand the state. One proposal would declare the towns of Kittery and Berwick, Maine, part of New Hampshire. The two states have fought over the border for decades in a dispute over who owns the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Another bill would welcome Killington, Vt., whose voters approved a plan to join New Hampshire because of a tax dispute with Vermont. The Vermont and Maine legislatures also would have to approve the proposals. Their approval isn't seen as likely.

Town in the hole

CA LOS ANGELES — Bankers have given an 11th-hour reprieve to the debt-ridden Los Angeles suburb of Gardena, postponing a deadline this month tied to more than \$26 million in debt, officials said.

The decision forestalls the possibility that the working-class city could be pushed into immediate default or bankruptcy. Gardena does not have the money to pay the

debt, but a new deadline of May 31 allows the city to continue negotiating with two banks.

About \$20 million of Gardena's debt stems from its decision in 1993 to borrow money to finance an insurance company that flopped.

The city also owes more than \$6 million from a failed home-loan program.

Terauchi and other officials said the city of 60,000 people has few options to raise cash to cover the debts that nearly equal Gardena's annual general fund budget.

Diversifying a district

IL CHICAGO — A federal judge has ruled that the Chicago Board of Education must find seats in substantially white schools for black and Latino students by mid-December. U.S. District Judge Charles Kocoras' ruling was in response to Justice Department claims that the nation's third-largest school district did not offer any racial transfers this year to improve integration.

Ethical rules approved

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Following a raft of scandals, the governing body of the state's most populous county has voted to approve a package of ethics reforms. The Salt Lake County Council's new rules scrap cap allowances, prohibit contractors from making political donations to county candidates, cap campaign contributions and require county lobbyists to get registered.

Court finds for bankers

FL PANAMA CITY — An appellate court upheld a lawsuit verdict that cleared two bankers of responsibility for the death of a frail millionaire. Emily Bent accused Detroit-based Comerica Bank and two of its officers in her husband's death. She said the bankers came to the couple's home and forced her 65-year-old husband to walk in near-100-degree heat to prove he was sick. He had sought funds for medical expenses from trust accounts the bank managed. He died a few days after the visit.

Hawk evicted

NY NEW YORK — Pale Male the city hawk was evicted from his nest, and the flap has already begun.

So said aggrieved bird-watchers and neighbors after workmen raised a scaffold to the top of a Manhattan apartment and ripped out the famous red-tailed hawk's nest.

The act appeared to end an urban drama that has fascinated bird-watchers over the past nine years, as Pale Male and a succession of mates raised 25 chicks — the last trio of fledglings last June — on the narrow 12th floor ledge over Fifth Avenue.

The hawks also achieved a measure of world fame, through television specials and a book, "Red-Tails in Love."

Pale Male, so named for his whitish plumage, and his mate, Lola, were nowhere to be seen as the nest was removed, nor were any of their latest offspring.



A little to the left ... Workmen stand atop the Durham School of the Arts to guide the new cupola into position in North Carolina.



Yum, raw fish! Snappy, a one-winged pelican, gets a fish lunch from Allison Campbell in her Miles City, Mont., back yard while waiting for a medical OK to be flown to a new home in Florida. Campbell had just taken Snappy to East Main Animal Clinic in Miles City for a checkup and bath.



Working reflections

Working in a cherry picker, Chester Powers checks a parking lot light for an electrical short in the lighting system at the Church of the Nazarene in Clovis, N.M.



What will they think of next? Nico Toutenhoofd gets some exercise roller skating around city blocks in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



Singing tree Steve Halvorson, foreground left, and Kim Elliott, right, rehearse along with other singers for the 25th annual Living Christmas Tree musical performance at the First Baptist Church in Roswell, N.M.



Shower of lights As the temperature made a gradual climb into the 60s, the rain kept coming down in Greensboro, N.C., during the mid-morning and afternoon hours, as Vickie Curtis walks down Elm Street amid trees strung with lights.

Cashing in on recycling

PA PHILADELPHIA — City officials will start a pilot program next month in which people can earn restaurant and store coupons by recycling their trash. About 6,000 households in the Chestnut Hill and East Oak Lane neighborhoods will get recycling containers stamped with bar codes. Specially equipped trucks will read the code and weigh the recyclables. Residents will earn \$5 in coupons for every 10 pounds of recycling, up to a maximum of \$25 a month.

Controversial return

CA SACRAMENTO — Outraged citizens barraged county officials with dozens of calls and e-mails, protesting the return to duty of a sheriff's deputy who was fired after jurors convicted him of trespassing while in uniform into the home of a woman he hoped to pursue romantically.

"You should be tarred and feathered!" Fran Harrison wrote to the five members of the Sacramento County Civil Service Commission, which voted to reinstate Timothy James Durel as a deputy.

The controversial decision — combined with the recent reinstatements of four other fired officers — is creating a political whirlwind in the county, as sheriff's officials blame appointed commissioners and county leaders distance themselves from the fray.

Wrong place to plant pot

PA DOYLESTOWN — Police said Ryan M. Steel picked a pretty bad place to grow dozens of large marijuana plants — on land owned by a retired police chief.

Steel, 26, of Upper Makefield Township, was charged with manufacturing a controlled substance, criminal trespass and agricultural vandalism. Authorities said he grew the plants on land owned by Robert Bell, the retired police chief of Bucks County's Springfield Township.

It was unclear why Bell's land was chosen to grow the plants.

Police pulled 29 6- to 10-foot-tall plants from Bell's property in September and arrested Steel on Dec. 2. Officials did not say how they concluded Steel was the one who planted the crops.

Credit not accepted

GA ATLANTA Georgia Tech will no longer allow students to pay tuition by credit card, a change the school says will save it \$1 million a year. Up to 40 percent of the university's 16,500 students used a credit card to pay for at least some of their expenses this year, officials said. As of Dec. 20, students will have to pay for their tuition, housing or meal plans with cash or a check. The school said it paid more than \$1 million last year in credit card service charges, at a time when the institute has laid off workers and scaled back courses because of state budget cuts.

Hounds rescued

UT CEDAR CITY — Some search-and-rescue workers became dogs' best friends with an unusual rescue.

A member of the Kane County rescue team rappelled steep cliffs

near the east entrance of Zion National Park to save four hounds that chased a mountain lion over a cliff.

Jeff Allen of Kanah was guiding a client on a mountain-lion hunt this week when his five dogs and the big cat went over a cliff and landed 30 feet below on an icy ledge, said David Owens, director of the county's emergency services.

Allen phoned a sheriff's deputy, who got permission from the sheriff to rescue the strand dogs.

The fifth dog was rescued in a subsequent operation.

More grade information

MI ANN ARBOR — The liberal arts faculty at the University of Michigan voted to include detailed information on transcripts that will provide course descriptions for students' grades. It's an effort to track and contain grade inflation. For classes with 10 or more students, the median grade and the number of students in the class will be added next to a student's individual grade.

No eavesdropping allowed

WA SEATTLE — Striking a blow for rebellious teenagers, the Washington Supreme Court ruled that state law prohibits parents from eavesdropping on a child's phone conversations.

The case reached the high court because of a purse-snatching. A 17-year-old boy was convicted of the robbery, in part on testimony from his girlfriend's mother, who overheard him discussing the crime on the phone with his daughter.

The daughter had taken a cordless phone into her bedroom and closed the door. In another room, her mother pressed the speakerphone button on an extension, listened in and took notes.

The court ruled that the daughter and her boyfriend had a reasonable expectation of privacy on the phone.

Whooping cough on rise

KS TOPEKA — State health officials say the number of cases of whooping cough, a childhood illness that can be fatal, has risen dramatically this year. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has recorded 148 cases, an increase from 23 in 2003 and 38 in 2002.

Missing art found

MO ST. LOUIS — Some pieces of a missing multimillion-dollar art collection that includes works by Pablo Picasso and Willem de Kooning have been recovered, authorities said.

FBI special agent Peter Krusing said that investigators recovered some paintings, prints and sculptures stolen from a storage facility in the St. Louis suburb of Bridgeton. But over half of the more than 100 works remain missing.

The works had been placed in storage there by an out-of-state owner, whom officials declined to identify. The works had been appraised at more than \$2 million in 1991, the FBI said.

The theft was reported Oct. 13 after an inventory showed the items were missing, officials said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Looking around, you could easily get the impression that you're living in a cartoon world where rhymes hardly feel out of place and people seem more like Dr. Seuss characters than flesh-and-blood humans. The moon enters friendly Aquarius, infusing us with eccentric creativity and the need to share it. Find your inner awkwardness.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 14). Your strong will creates success and happiness this year. You're able to knock down the barrier erected between you and what you want. Surround yourself with mentors and friends, especially wise ones, as you enter the new year. Creative partners turn into love partners in February, and love partners work together creatively, too. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 45, 23, 19 and 31.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not striving to merely get ahead of the ball; you want to sink in the goal and win the whole game! Don't be surprised if everyone around you is thinking much smaller. Give yourself and your colleagues a pep talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not fair. While some find it hard to capture the attention of an unearthing world, you simply show up, and everyone responds. To claim you've got charisma would be an understatement. You're electro-luminous!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Others are so friendly and helpful, you'll wonder if they're up to something. No, you're just easy to be nice to. Continue to tip big and bring your winning personality to all you encounter. A new love is among your admiring public.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you dare to speak up, you surprise yourself! More than another opinion from the peanut gallery, you're a self-styled revolutionary force. So express in the moment. Don't let your ideas swim in the sea of afterthoughts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll feel like the parent, especially when

people who are supposed to be your superiors act like Angst-ridden, misunderstood teens. When they finally ask for your input, you provide an earnest stream of useful feedback.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're centered, but your team is a mess. It falls on you to pull everyone together, or the group could polarize just when unity is what's required. Reiterate the bottom line, and stress the goal you all have in common.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Clear up misunderstandings so you can build a more solid support system. You're given an uncensored forum to air your grievances, but that doesn't mean you should lose your signature diplomacy. Being nice is still effective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The only difference between lettuce and garbage is timing. Your own fine timing could land you a piece of the action in a business venture, a killer deal on a big-ticket item, or a date for Saturday night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're determined to be proactive instead of re-active. Be sure to reinforce that to the quantum computer that lives in your brain. Giving yourself simple tasks to accomplish is your key to success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It feels like life is in the blender. While you're handling the blur around you, you don't have time to put up with anyone's antics. Draw boundaries, or your risk being inundated with the relationship equivalent of useless junk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It looks like things are going your way, so back off, and trust the process. Otherwise, your expectations could get so high that your nervous system doesn't know how to react. As the teens say, "Be more chill."

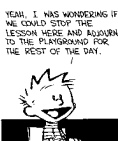
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Once again, you're floating in a sea of emotions, but this time, it's in more of a yacht than a lifeboat. It's your reward for investing your feelings in a situation that actually deserves your passionate contribution.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



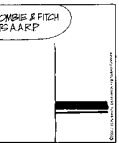
Calvin and Hobbes



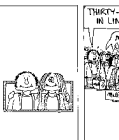
Jump Start



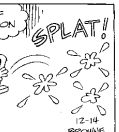
Zits



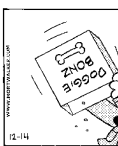
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



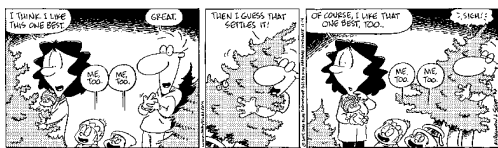
Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



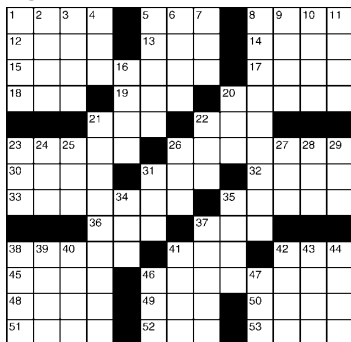
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Cry like a banshee
- 5 "Do — favor"
- 8 Took off
- 12 Wile E.'s supplier
- 13 Listening device
- 14 Matador's foe
- 15 Hickory variety
- 17 Family member
- 18 Nerd-pack occupant
- 19 B&B
- 20 Correspond
- 21 Adipose tissue
- 22 "Song of the South" song start
- 23 Buckets
- 26 Harlem-genre
- 30 Met melody
- 31 Overly
- 32 Stationer's unit
- 33 Evaluated
- 35 Excited states
- 36 Pack quantity
- 37 Whatever number
- 38 Large amounts
- 41 Ostriach's kin
- 42 Poke
- 45 Notion
- 46 Acceleration contest
- 48 Complaint
- 49 Ph. bk. info
- 50 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 51 Get of image
- 52 Shubbom one
- 53 Bankrolls

Down

- 1 Hornet's cousin
- 2 Rue the run
- 3 Sornalian supermodel
- 4 "The Amazing Race" episode
- 5 Intended
- 6 Have coming
- 7 Deluge refuge
- 8 Pre-wedding blowout
- 9 Decant
- 10 Sea filer
- 11 Love not wisely but too well
- 16 Prejudice
- 20 Pick a target
- 21 Arizona city
- 22 Menagerie
- 23 Manhandle
- 24 Exist
- 25 Midafternoon, on a sundial
- 26 Staff
- 27 Born
- 28 Cornfield comment
- 29 Type squares
- 31 John Ritter's dad
- 34 Possessive pronoun
- 35 All warm and cozy
- 37 Get together
- 38 BBQ entree
- 39 Syllables after 22-Across
- 40 Sense
- 41 Aphrodite's kid
- 42 Hurt nit
- 43 Alkali neutralizer
- 44 Hotel accommodations
- 46 Modern-day evidence
- 47 Squabble

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-14

CRYPTOQUIP

DASV U JFGPSWIUOL AUR
XKVKRASC DBWL, CB NBF
WSOLBV AS GKHAZ SVIBN
U PKZ BX JUHSW?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU SAID THAT YOU INVENTED BALLOONS, BUT I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU'RE FULL OF HOT AIR.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals N

In-laws' extended stay no picnic

Dear Abby: My husband, "Jay's," parents have informed us they are coming for Christmas and will be staying for six weeks. They need at least three weeks because they're having dental work done by another family member, and it must be staggered.

Long visits are acceptable in their culture, but it usually applies when people visit from another country—not another state.

The last time they came, they stayed three weeks. It was a stretch for me, but I bit my tongue. I was with them 24/7 because they're hard on me because they get bored and expect me to entertain them. Also, I don't get along well with my father-in-law, and neither of them likes my cooking.

Jay knows six weeks is long, but for him the time goes fast because he works long hours. Jay says he'll talk to his parents

about this, but he's miserable at the prospect.

— **Dreading Christmas in California**
Dear Dreading: Be a gracious hostess for three weeks.

After that, schedule a break. Go visit relatives or, if that's not feasible, check into a motel. You may find that having had a breather, you'll be in a better frame of mind to deal with the in-laws upon your return.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I am 22, and recently moved here from a different state. Shortly after I arrived, I met an amazing man I'll call Lance. Lance and I met at work and fell for each other instantly.

After we had been dating only a month, I found out that I was pregnant with my ex-boyfriend's baby. Lance was confused when I told him, but after a few days of thinking about it, he told me that the pregnancy didn't change the

way he felt about me. We have now been dating more than two months, and Lance continues to be wonderful and supportive.

I'm afraid that since I'm starting to show, Lance will get scared and break my heart. We have had a few serious talks because I feel he doesn't spend enough time with me. Lance contends that he spends more time with me than he does his friends or family. Is this rational, or am I overly emotional because of my pregnancy?

— **Confused in Colorado**

Dear Confused: You could be hormonal—or simply extremely needy because you are vulnerable right now. Lance appears to be standing by you to the best of his ability—and now is not the time to be telling him he isn't measuring up to your standards of companionship. He deserves praise for his loyalty, not criticism for not giving "enough."

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6944, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DULGI

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CUMIS

TACTIN

NITMAR

A: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PYLON BANAL FAMILY SYMBOL
Answer: What the shepherd discovered when he counted his flock — A LAMB ON THE LAM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form a surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Teen with cutting problem needs help

Dear Annie: I'm 14, and I think I am suffering from bipolar disorder — high manic episodes quickly followed by full-blown depression, where I often cut myself to avoid committing suicide or hurting others.

The problem is, I'm not really sure if I have manic depression or if it's just teenage hormones going wild. I would love to receive a proper diagnosis, but I don't know how to approach my parents and ask to see a psychiatrist or somebody. I'm afraid they'll just push it aside and tell me there's nothing to worry about.

Is there any way I can get them to take me seriously? And if they don't, could I see someone without parental consent? I would really like to get some help because the way I feel really sucks.

— **Kurt Cobain's Would-Be Stalker**
Dear Friend: What you describe doesn't sound like typical teenage angst. Please talk to your parents, and if you think

Annie's Mailbox



they won't listen, talk to a favorite relative, family friend or your school counselor. You also can contact the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 730 N. Franklin St., Suite 501, Chicago, IL 60610, 1-800-826-3632 (www.dbsalliance.org). Keep us posted, honey. We're worried about you.

Dear Annie: I am a social worker who works primarily with the elderly and the disabled in their homes. I have seen my clients receive pieces of official-looking mail, with a Washington, D.C., address and what looks like a government seal, offering to assist people with their government benefits, Social Security, Medicare, or the new Medicare prescription drug program. At the end of the letter, it asks them to complete a form and mail a check.

Please warn your readers that these letters are junk mail dis-

guised as official information and are worthless. Official assistance and information on government benefits do not have any fees associated with them. All of these services can be provided free of charge by local senior centers or advocacy groups such as The Center for Healthcare Rights (healthcarerights.org).

I see so many seniors treating this mail seriously, assuming they must respond or miss out on a needed program. People should take these letters to someone they trust before they are cheated out of thousands of dollars.

— **Social Worker in Los Angeles**
Dear Social Worker: Thank you for alerting our readers that official-looking mail asking for money is often a scam. Please, folks, do not send money to any organization without first checking it out.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



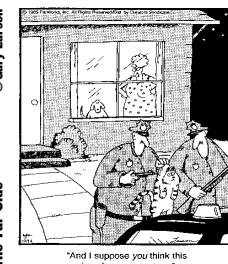
"Boy! Are you ever gonna get coal in your stocking!"



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson



The Far Side

"And I suppose you think this is a dream come true."

Non Sequitur



"SCOTTY CONTINUES HIS QUEST TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN NATURE FROM TIEING HIS NECKTIE GETS..."

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- Please email each word. No abbreviations.
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 7-2317 Roppongi, Minato-ku
 Tokyo 100-0032 Japan
 Email us at:
 classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

Deadline to place, cancel, and make any change to an ad is five (5) business days prior to publishing date. If the ad has a typographical error, Pacific Stripes and Stripes liability is to be waived for one (1) additional day on the next available issue date. Any other problem with advertising must be filed in writing no later than ten (10) days after the first insertion of the ad. Ads cannot be run up ahead of sideways.

All Classified Advertisements Are Non-refundable

Classified Advertising is accepted from DoD personnel (private party) ad Classified advertisements and all organizations which provide a service of interest to the military community (business advertisements). All ads are assessed before acceptance according to the moral and ethical judgment of Pacific Stripes and Stripes. Classified advertisements must be acceptable for our general military/family readership. Pacific Stripes and Stripes has the right to return any ad and is considered inappropriate for publication.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Installation _____
 Your ad _____

Submit coupon to: Stars and Stripes, Classified Ad Dept., Unit #4002 APO AF 96337-5002 Fax DSN 229-3274, CHL 3243-4287, Email classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

Announcements

040

C'mon Get Happy!

Get your Happy Ad in Stripes today!

Want to hook up with an old friend?

Send your girlfriend a birthday greeting?

Or congratulate your friend's recent promotion?

Whatever the occasion, book your Happy Ad today in Stars and Stripes!

Check out the details:

1. Email your greeting and digital photo to dsd@stripes.odn.mil.

2. Stars and Stripes reserves the right to reject any Happy Ad.

3. A one-time \$30 fee for each ad must be prepaid prior to publication.

You may stop at any time and/or you may void the nearest Stars and Stripes circulation office and pay by check.

We met at the Glade & Anchor the night of October 25, 2002.

I love with my friends from Tokyo.

I let you tell me your address and I will send you from you again.

Just in case you've been looking for me... Jane's Mom.

Thank you for the fun evening and the ride back to my room.

Kasee, Okinawa.

Email classifieds@stripes.odn.mil or call DSN 229-3276

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES

Appliances 025

Foster, Okinawa - Household Appliances for sale: Mrs. Tina 530 - 4 Chv. Heater 830. Call #646-4374 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

Appliances 025

Foster, Okinawa - Mighy mowers or sewing machine #15 call #646-4158 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

Appliances 025

Foster, Okinawa - they sell down transformer make power (voltage) by converting Japanese voltage to American. We have 2000 watt transformer. Asking \$60. Please call 633-4184.

Appliances 025

Foster, Okinawa - Homeless, heavily damaged 900 watt transformer for sale. Mrs. Tina 530 - 4 Chv. Heater 830. Call #646-4374 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

Appliances 025

Kadoma, Okinawa - Portable air conditioner, bought for \$500 selling for \$150 because nearly brand new. Only asking \$200 each. Call #646-4374 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

Appliances 025

Yokota, Japan - Carrier air conditioner, large capacity model #75, \$90. Call 229-325-904.

Appliances 025

Foster, Okinawa - White refrigerator, from adjustable stove. Mrs. Tina 530 - 4 Chv. Heater 830. Call #646-4374 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

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Miscellaneous 1040

Foster, Okinawa - Buffy the Vampire Slayer DVD box set for \$50. #646-4158 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

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Miscellaneous 1040

Kadoma, Okinawa - Looking for a White Christmas DVD for the holidays. Call #63-1192 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

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Foster, Okinawa - White refrigerator, from adjustable stove. Mrs. Tina 530 - 4 Chv. Heater 830. Call #646-4374 or e-mail classifieds@stripes.odn.mil

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday
AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College basketball: Toledo at Duke (did).
AFN-Atlantic, 8:30 a.m.-NFL ESPN NFL Monday Night Countdown.
AFN-Atlantic, 8:30 a.m.-NFL ESPN NFL Monday Night Countdown.
AFN-Atlantic, 8:30 a.m.-NFL ESPN NFL Monday Night Countdown.
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-College basketball: Wake Forest at Temple (did).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-NFL: Kansas City at Tennessee (did).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-NBA: Dallas at Chicago (did).

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-NFL: Kansas City at Tennessee (did).
AFN-Atlantic, 8:30 a.m.-College basketball: Wake Forest at Temple (did).
AFN-Atlantic, 8:30 a.m.-College basketball: Wake Forest at Temple (did).
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-College basketball: Illinois at Chicago (did).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-NFL: Kansas City at Tennessee (did).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-NBA: Dallas at Chicago (did).

College football

At Times Japan and Korea Standard time, did indicates deferred broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.mynfl.net for more information.

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Heisman voting

NEW YORK — Voting for the 2004 Heisman Trophy, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points (with run on 3-2-1 basis):

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Matt Leinart, USC	267	111	109	125
Adrian Peterson, U of M	117	117	95	299
Jason White, U of M	117	117	95	299
Jason White, U of M	117	117	95	299
Reggie Bush, USC	118	80	83	297

Heisman regional voting

NEW YORK — Regional points breakdown of the Heisman in balloting (2004 Heisman Trophy):

NORTHEAST
 1. Matt Leinart, 242; 2. Adrian Peterson, 178; 3. Jason White, 134; 4. Reggie Bush, 104; Reggie Bush, 110.

MID-ATLANTIC
 1. Matt Leinart, 242; 2. Adrian Peterson, 178; 3. Jason White, 134; 4. Reggie Bush, 95; 6. Alex Smith, 78.

SOUTH
 1. Matt Leinart, 242; 2. Adrian Peterson, 178; 3. Jason White, 134; 4. Reggie Bush, 95; 6. Alex Smith, 78.

SOUTHWEST
 1. Jason White, 203; 2. Adrian Peterson, 178; 3. Matt Leinart, 117; 4. Alex Smith, 95; Reggie Bush, 110.

WEST
 1. Matt Leinart, 242; 2. Adrian Peterson, 178; 3. Jason White, 134; 4. Reggie Bush, 95; 6. Alex Smith, 78.

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AP Men's Top 25 ranked

1. Illinois (6-0) beat Oregon 84-66. Next at: Wednesday, Sunday.

2. Kansas (6-0) beat Louisiana-Lafayette 90-71. Next at: Friday, Dec. 17.

3. Georgia Tech (6-0) beat Air Force 64-42. Next at: Friday, Dec. 17.

4. Syracuse (6-0) beat Birmingham 86-56. Next at: Friday, Dec. 17.

5. Oklahoma State (6-0) did not play. Next at: Saturday, Dec. 18.

6. Wake Forest (6-0) did not play. Next at: Saturday, Dec. 18.

7. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next at: Saturday, Dec. 18.

8. North Carolina (6-1) did not play. Next at: Saturday, Dec. 18.

9. Duke (5-0) did not play. Next at: Toled, Sunday, Dec. 19.

10. Kentucky (6-1) beat Indiana 73-58. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

11. Pittsburgh (7-0) beat Penn State 84-70. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

12. N. Carolina St. (7-0) beat Liberty 94-71. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

13. Louisville (5-1) beat Florida 74-70. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

14. Texas (6-1) beat North Carolina 74-70. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

15. Virginia (6-2) beat Utah 67-62. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

16. Washington (6-2) did not play. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

17. Iowa (7-1) did not play. Next at: West, Sunday, Dec. 19.

18. Alabama (8-1) beat Temple 75-71. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

19. Tennessee (6-2) beat Kentucky 74-62. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

20. Michigan (7-1) did not play. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

21. Virginia Tech (6-2) beat Stanford 70-64. Next at: Sunday, Dec. 19.

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College basketball

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Minnesota Vikings running back Onterio Smith (32) fumbles the ball as he is tackled by Seattle Seahawks linebackers Niko Koutoufides (53) and Solomon Bates (50) during the fourth quarter in Minneapolis on Sunday. The Seahawks recovered the ball and went on to defeat the Vikings 27-23.

Sinking Seahawks hold on at last as Vikings, Moss throw one away

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Seattle Seahawks finally figured out how to finish a game.

Michael Boulware intercepted an ill-advised pass by Randy Moss in the end zone just before the 2-minute warning, allowing the Seahawks to hang on for a wild 27-23 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Matt Hasselbeck's three first-half touchdown passes proved to be enough for Seattle (7-6), which came away with a crucial win — just its fourth in the last 10 games — for its playoff chances in the diluted NFC.

Meanwhile, Minnesota (7-6) lost for the fifth time in seven games and watched its own playoff plans take a hit.

Moss, who caught four passes for 104 yards and a touchdown, rolled right in the closing minutes after a handoff from Daunte Culpepper. Near the sideline with a defender closing in, Moss fired into the back of the end zone, where Marcus Robinson was covered by two Seahawks.

After the interception, Minnesota managed to force a punt and get the ball back at its 10 with 44 seconds left and no timeouts. A 36-yard pass to Moss and an off-side call on Seattle while Culpepper spiked the ball gave the Vikings possession at the Seahawks' 28 for an last try with 4 seconds on the clock.

Culpepper scrambled right and appeared to be sacked by Antonio Cochran, but the play wasn't stopped and a heave into the end zone was nearly caught by Jermaine Wiggins as the game ended.

Shaun Alexander ran 27 times for 112 yards to go with a touchdown reception for the Seahawks, who wasted a double-digit fourth-quarter lead in a loss to Dallas last week and died the same in an overtime defeat to St. Louis on Oct. 10 that started their spiral.

Hasselbeck finished with 334 yards passing, but threw two interceptions that led to 10 Minnesota points and made a handful of inaccurate throws on crucial plays.



Culpepper wasn't great, either, especially after halftime. He finished with 270 yards and no interceptions, but the Vikings failed to take advantage of several opportunities their maligned defense gave them after a miserable first half.

Saints 27, Cowboys 13: At Irving, Texas, Deuce McAllister ran for two touchdowns, John Carney kicked two field goals and Joe Horn added a 31-yard touchdown catch as the Saints seriously damaged the Cowboys' wild-card chances.

Dallas (5-8) had won consecutive games, including a thrilling 43-39 victory over Seattle on Monday night, but got little offense after leading 10-0 after the first quarter.

Instead, they lost at home to a team that had lost three straight and was more curious about its coach's status than its playoff possibilities. The Saints (5-8) also wound up with their first road win over the Cowboys in 10 tries.

Jaguars 22, Bears 3: At Jacksonville, Fla., Byron Leftwich threw two touchdown passes and the Jacksonville defense constantly harassed Chad Hutchinson and the injury-depleted Bears.

The Jaguars (7-6) ended a three-game losing streak and re-mained a game back in the crowded AFC wild-card race. The Bears (5-8), with yet another poor offensive outing, were all but eliminated from the muddled NFL postseason picture.

Leftwich finished 25-for-45 for 242 yards. Jimmy Smith caught six passes for 85 yards, and Reggie Williams had his most productive game with four receptions for 62 yards.

Ravens 37, Giants 14: At Baltimore, Kyle Boller threw a career-high four touchdown passes, and the Ravens forced six turnovers from the Giants and a battered Eli Manning.



Dallas Cowboys running back Eddie George missed the first game of his NFL career Sunday after playing in 140 straight.

After two straight losses in which they allowed a combined 39 fourth-quarter points, the Ravens' defense held New York's offense scoreless until late in the game, when the decision was no longer in doubt.

Baltimore (8-5) converted four of the turnovers into 20 points.

Manning went 4-for-18 for 27 yards and two interceptions — a 0.0 quarterback rating — before being replaced in the fourth quarter by Kurt Warner as the Giants (5-8) lost their sixth straight.

Bills 37, Browns 7: Playing for the first time in two months, Troy Vincent had an interception, fumble recovery and sack as the Bills won at home for their fourth straight victory and sixth in their last seven games.

Buffalo (7-6) held the blundering Browns to 17 yards on four plays, forcing five turnovers and adding eight sacks. Cleveland (3-10) had 2 yards with 9:34 left in the game, flirting with the NFL record of minus-7 yards, set by Seattle in 1979, but managed 15 yards on its final series.

Willis McGahee had 105 yards rushing and scored on 6- and 13-yard runs. It was McGahee's sixth 100-yard game in eight starts, and the Bills have won all six times.

Colts win in Houston, wrap up division title

Manning moves within 2 TD passes of Marino's record for most in season

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Peyton Manning broke one of Dan Marino's touchdown records, just not the one everybody has been talking about.

But Manning got the only things that really matter to him — an Indianapolis victory and a playoff berth. The Colts beat the Houston Texans 23-14 Sunday to clinch their second straight AFC South title with their sixth consecutive win.

Manning threw touchdown passes — the first two Colts drives to get within two of Marino's 20-year-old record of 48 TDs in a season. It was his 13th straight multi-TD game, breaking at the Texans 38, Manning threw a 3-yard TD to Marvin Harrison, Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith and Brett Favre.

Unitas was the only other to begin his streak in the first game of a season, for the Colts 45 years ago in the midst of his record streak of 47 straight games with a TD pass.

The Colts (10-3) didn't get into the end zone again after Manning's last start, settling for three field goals by Mike Vanderjagt (30, 43 and 44 yards) in the second half.

The next chance for Manning to catch Marino for the single-season TD record comes at home next Sunday night against Baltimore.

With a chance to become the first NFL team to score 40 points in five straight games, the Colts had a season-low points total.

Manning didn't have at least three TD passes for the first time in nine games.

Manning was 26-for-33 for 298 yards. Reggie Wayne had seven catches for 96 yards, including a 12-yard TD.

Edgerrin James ran for 104 yards in 28 carries, and had seven catches for 54 yards. Danistic Davis had 201 total yards for Houston (5-8). He had 23 carries for 128 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 73 yards.

The way Manning started Sunday, it looked like he would catch Marino by halftime.

Seven plays after Jason David intercepted a pass by David Carr at the Texans 38, Manning threw a 3-yard TD to Marvin Harrison. It was the 13th TD this season for Harrison, who this week signed a \$66 million, seven-year contract extension. It was the 31st between Manning and Harrison, the second-most for quarterback-receiver duo behind 85 by Steve Young and Jerry Rice.

The Texans then went three-and-out, and Indianapolis went 72 yards on eight plays — four passes and four runs by James. Wayne's 11th TD reception with 3:57 left in the first quarter put the Colts up 14-0.

Only one other Colts pass was thrown into the end zone after that. But the Colts made a diving attempt on a ball in the third quarter just before Vanderjagt's 30-yard field goal for a 17-7 lead.

Patriots edge Bengals to secure return to playoffs

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Tom Brady passed the New England Patriots into the playoffs by guiding an offensive system that may be on display at Notre Dame next season.

And their defense held off the Cincinnati Bengals for a 35-28 win Sunday.

Brady threw two touchdowns — with an offensive coordinator Charlie Weis calling plays while close to becoming coach of the Fighting Irish — and the Patriots got their 27th win in 28 games.

Corey Dillon ran for a touchdown and 88 yards on 22 carries against the team he left amid harsh feelings and for the first time in his eight-year seasons reached the playoffs. New England (12-1) clinched a postseason berth and will claim the AFC East title with a Pittsburgh win over the New York Jets later Sunday.

But the Bengals, who totaled 85 points in their previous three games, made it 35-28 on Jon Kitney's 27-yard TD pass to Kelley Washington with 3:50 left after

Troy Brown ended another threat when he intercepted Kitney's pass in the end zone early in the fourth quarter.

Carson Palmer threw two touchdowns passes for the Bengals (6-7) before leaving with a sprained knee with 3:10 to go in the third quarter.

But he also threw an interception that Asante Samuel returned 34 yards for a touchdown and a 21-7 lead midway through the second quarter. The Patriots came up with two other turnovers that ended Cincinnati threats — a fumble recovery by Willie McGinest and a yard line and Brown's interception.

On offense, Weis hardly seemed distracted while watching the Patriots' comeback, connecting for a total of 77 points in their last two games.

Notre Dame was close to hiring him to replace Tyrone Willingham, and an announcement was possible as soon as Monday.

Brady completed 18 of 26 passes for 260 yards. He was connected with Patrick Pass for a 7-yard gain while sitting on the ground after he tripped.

Notre Dame close to hiring Patriots' Weis

BY TOM COYNE

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame is close to hiring New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis as its new coach, a university source said Saturday night, but the deal is not complete and still could fall apart.

The Fighting Irish have been searching for nearly two weeks for a replacement for Tyrone Willingham, who was fired Nov. 30 after posting a 21-15 record in three years.

The source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that some procedural issues that could be deal-breakers remained in the talks with Weis.

ESPN, quoting sources close to the university, reported Saturday night that Weis had agreed to a six-year contract that will pay him about \$2 million a year. The network said Weis will fly to South Bend, Ind., to meet with Notre Dame players after the Patriots' game Sunday against Cincinnati, and that a news conference at Notre Dame is set for Monday.

Weis could not be reached at his Massachusetts home Saturday night. A Patriots

spokesman said the team had no comment on the reports.

"We have not hired anybody yet, and we don't have a press conference scheduled," Notre Dame associate athletic director John Heisler said Saturday night. "Nothing is official. The process is ongoing. . . . No deal is done from our standpoint."

Weis would be the first Notre Dame alum to coach the Irish since Hugh Devore was interim coach in 1963. Though he never played for the Fighting Irish, Weis graduated from the school in 1978 with a degree in communications and education.

Weis, 48, started as a high school coach and has long wanted to become a head coach. He went as far as undergoing gastric bypass surgery to help improve his chances of getting a job.

He said he primarily underwent the surgery for health reasons because his father died at age 56 from complications of being overweight, and because of the death in 2001 of fellow assistant coach Dick Rehbein at 45 from degenerative heart disease.

But he also knew that losing weight would help him become a head coach.

"I think there's a lot of validity in the

thought that appearance comes into play," he said two years ago.

The surgery led to life-threatening internal bleeding that forced him to undergo surgery again two days later and kept him in intensive care for nearly two weeks.

Weis' success with the Patriots hurt his chances of getting an NFL head coaching job. He interviewed last year with the New York Giants and Buffalo Bills, but an NFL rule about pro sports assistants from being hired while their teams are still in the playoffs essentially prevented him from being seriously considered.

His weight problems and near-death experience also might have hurt his chances because of speculation his health wasn't good enough to handle a head coaching job.

"I think some people were totally misguided in terms of my physical abilities to put in a full day," Weis said last year.

If Weis is hired by Notre Dame, it is unclear when he would leave the Patriots. Weis' coach Bill Belichick said Friday he expects Weis to stay with the team through the season.

"Charlie, I expect, will continue to be here and carry out his responsibilities through the season," Belichick said.

Weis taught and coached high school for five years before taking an assistant's job at South Carolina for four seasons. He returned to coaching at high school for one year before joining the New York Giants' pro personnel department in 1989.

Weis was hired by the Giants as defensive assistant and assistant special teams coach in 1990, earning his first Super Bowl ring. When Ray Handley was named coach of the Giants in 1991, he named Weis running backs coach.

Weis worked for the Patriots from 1993-96, coaching tight ends, running backs and wide receivers. In 1997, Weis was hired by Jets coach Bill Parcells, who asked former New York Giants offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt to groom Weis as the Jets' offensive coordinator. In 1998, he was named Jets' offensive coordinator-wide receivers coach.

He has been the Patriots' offensive coordinator the past five seasons, earning two more Super Bowl rings.

He is credited with helping to develop quarterback Tom Brady, tight end Ben Coates, running back Curtis Martin, wide receiver Terry Glenn and former Notre Dame receiver David Givens.

Harris leaves Pitt for Stanford

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Pittsburgh's Walt Harris was hired as Stanford's new football coach Sunday, giving the Cardinal the offensive-minded leader they sought to replace Buddy Teevens.

Stanford spokesman Gary Migdol said Harris accepted the job Sunday, and the school planned an official announcement for Monday.

"He's accepted and will be here tomorrow," Migdol said. "He's in Pittsburgh today."

Harris, 58, reportedly was meeting with his team Sunday and is expected to coach the 19th-ranked Panthers in the Fiesta Bowl against Utah on Jan. 1 before assuming his new job.

Harris interviewed on campus Friday, two days after Southern California offensive coordinator Norm Chow visited to interview. Athletic director Ted Leland of-

fered Harris the job Saturday, then met with university president John Hennessey and provost John Etchemendy as a formality in the hiring process.

"He interviewed very well and presented himself very well," Stanford linebacker Jon Alston told The Associated Press in a phone interview Sunday. "In my impression, he's done some really impressive things, and hopefully he can continue them at Stanford. I thought he was a coach's coach. The things he was able to accomplish at Pittsburgh speak for themselves."

Alston has watched Pitt from afar and noticed how Harris turned around the program. Alston believes Leland worked quickly to get a coach hired before the height of the recruiting season.

"I think it worked fine," Alston said at the time.

Leland said he wouldn't spend a fortune on his football coach.

Harris met last week with Pittsburgh athletic director Jeff Long, but the school didn't offer him an extension for more than the close to \$600,000 he was earning. Pitt sophomore quarterback Tyler Palko campaigned for the school to keep him.

Leland went with the coach he knows — he hired Harris to be head coach at Pacific in 1989.

Leland searched for a coach with a strong offensive background after Stanford struggled to score during Teevens' tenure. The Cardinal went 4-7 the past two seasons, losing their last five games this year. They were 0-13 down the stretch the past three seasons leading to Teevens' firing last month.

Harris, Pitt's eighth-year coach, has plenty of connections to the Bay Area. He grew up in South San Francisco and attended college at Pacific in Stockton, where he also began his college coaching career directing the secondary.

down pass to Zach Parker early in the second quarter to start the comeback, and Valdosta State took the lead for the first time early in the second half when Pittsburgh's punter Andy Majors dropped a snap in the end zone and was stopped for a safety, giving the Blazers a 19-17 lead.

Walker, a former starter at Florida State, completed 19 of 27 passes for 165 yards and ran for 55 yards on 11 carries.

"It's all ending on a good note," Walker said. "I just think God that I had the opportunity to come here and help this team win."

Leading 36-31 late in the fourth quarter, Valdosta State converted on a fourth-down play with a fake punt to keep the ball and hold onto the lead.



USC quarterback Matt Leinart, left, kept Oklahoma quarterback Jason White, right, from repeating as the Heisman Trophy winner.

Heisman: Leinart second USC QB to win award

HEISMAN, FROM BACK PAGE

Leinart had never thrown a pass at USC when he won a four-way battle to replace Palmer in 2003.

The left-hander practically matched Palmer's Heisman numbers in his first season as a starter, throwing for 3,556 yards and 38 TDs while leading the Trojans to a share of the national title. He finished sixth in last year's Heisman balloting.

While Bush has provided a slew of dazzling plays for USC, the laid-back Leinart is the Trojan's leader.

Breaking in a new set of receivers and playing behind a rebuilt offensive line, Leinart has completed 66 percent of his passes with just six interceptions this season.

"There was a lot of questions going into the season," Leinart said. "I think we answered them."

The Trojans are 24-1 with Leinart as a starter and have won 21 straight games.

USC's first four Heisman winners were running backs, starting with Mike Garrett in 1965 and ending with Marcus Allen in 1981.

But Tailback U. has turned into Quarterback College since offensive coordinator Norm Chow arrived with coach Pete Carroll in 2001.

Chow turned Palmer from a talented enigma into a potential NFL franchise quarterback. Leinart is Chow's third protégé to win the Heisman, along with BYU's Ty Detmer.

Leinart could also join Palmer as an NFL first-round pick, maybe as soon as April if he decides to skip his final college season.

"That's quite a rise for the geeky kid from Santa Ana, Calif.,"

"No," Leinart said, "I was kind of cross-eyed and fat class and an inch thick," Leinart said. "I use to get made fun of. It's been a long time since those days."

Walker leads Valdosta to D-II title

The Associated Press

FLORENCE, Ala. — Valdosta State rallied to win its first NCAA Division II championship Saturday, with Fabian Walker throwing

ing two touchdown passes and running for a score in the Blazers' 36-31 victory over Pittsburgh State.

Valdosta State (13-1) forced four turnovers and held Pittsburgh State (14-1) to 371 yards of total offense — 243 below the Gorillas' average. The Blazers intercepted two passes and recovered two fumbles.

Valdosta State's Terrence Bell intercepted two passes, including a momentum-changer late in the first quarter after the Gorillas had taken a 14-0 lead.

"All season long we've bent, but we've come up with turnovers at the right time," Valdosta State coach Chris Hatcher said.

Walker threw a 1-yard touch-

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'Coach K' goes after 700th win vs. Toledo

BY KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Mike Krzyzewski feels fortunate to still be the coach at Duke, and it has nothing to do with his brief flirtation with the Los Angeles Lakers last summer.

In his first three seasons with the Blue Devils, Krzyzewski coached a 38-47 record and failed to reach the NCAA tournament.

Still, Coach K continued to have the support of his bosses, and never came close to losing his job. He wonders if the same would be true today, considering the instability of the coaching profession.

"If I had started out that way back during this period of time, I probably would not be a head coach right now," he said. "It takes a team commitment to be successful in anything."

Krzyzewski put those early struggles behind him, and now, in his 25th season at Duke, is one victory away from becoming the sixth active coach to reach 700. His first chance at the milestone came when the Blue Devils (5-0) hosted Toledo Sunday night.

At 699-240, the 57-year-old Krzyzewski would be the second-youngest to reach the mark, falling just short of his college coach, Bob Knight, who was 56. The other active coaches with 700 are Lou Henson, Eddie Sutton, Lute Olson and John Chaney.

"For me, every win, every game, has been precious, and this is a result of that," Krzyzewski



Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski has cut down a lot of nets during his coaching career, including three for winning national titles. On Sunday night, he stood to collect another net as he chased his 700th victory.

said. "That's what I've tried to do during my 30 years, and we've won a lot of games. I'm shocked that we've won that many, but, you know, that's the way it is, that's just the way it is."

His coaching career started at Army, where he had been a point guard on teams coached by Knight. Coach K went 73-59 at his alma mater, taking his first team to the NIT, before coming to the Blue Devils.

Two lean years followed — Duke won a combined 21 games — but Krzyzewski got the time he needed to upgrade the program.

"It's not so much just giving time," he said. "I think it's forming a team with a coach. During my 25 years here at Duke, whoever the president or athletic director is, and our administration, we've been on the same page. "I'm not sure that takes place every place."

Since that humble beginning, Krzyzewski has led the Blue Devils to three national championships, 10 trips to the Final Four, nine outright Atlantic Coast Conference regular season titles and eight conference tournament titles, including an unprecedented run of five straight.

Terps wallop Asheville as Gilchrist scores 22

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — John Gilchrist scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half and No. 23 Maryland was perfect from the free throw line for just the second time in school history, cruising past UNC-Asheville 96-72 Sunday.

Travis Garrison and Chris McCray added 15 points apiece and D.J. Strawberry scored 13 for the Terrapins (5-2), who had lost two of their previous three games.

Bryan McCullough had 16 points for UNC-Asheville (1-5), which was playing for the first time in eight days and coming off its first victory of the season, over Western Carolina on Dec. 4.

Omar Collington scored 12 points for the Bulldogs.

The Terrapins, who entered the game shooting 68.5 percent from the free throw line, finished 13-for-13. Maryland was 19-for-19 against Holy Cross on Jan. 21, 1985.

Maryland, which lost to the then-unranked George Washington last weekend, quickly solved its offensive issues against UNC-Asheville, scoring the game's first 12 points.

The Terrapins' transition game and half-court and motion offenses — which struggled for consistency against George Washington — all produced points in bunches, forcing the Bulldogs to play catch-up from the onset.

McCray had 11 first-half points, helping the Terrapins to a 45-34 halftime lead. The Bulldogs shot 14-for-38 in the first half and missed their first 11 shots from the field.

Mike Jones' three-point put the Terps up 24-10 with 11:23 left in the first half, but UNC-Asheville used an 11-2 burst to get within 26-21.

Ebene Ibekwe's three-point play then jump-started a 10-2 Maryland run, with McCray's baseline turnaround jumper producing a 38-21 lead.



Maryland's Ebene Ibekwe, right, blocks a shot by North Carolina Asheville's Joseph Barber during the second half of Sunday's game in College Park, Md. No. 23 Maryland won 96-72.

Orange struggle coming off loss

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The first loss of the season is never easy to get over, and it took Syracuse a little bit longer than expected.

Playing a team it had beaten by a combined 104 points in three previous games, No. 4 Syracuse led Binghamton only 36-28 at half-time Saturday night before pulling away for an 86-56 victory. Hakim Warrick had 20 points and Gerry McNamara 18 to lead the Orange.

"The offense rushed it and we had some bad turnovers (in the first half)," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "The second half we backed off our press, got softer, got a couple of turnovers, which gave us some momentum."

In the first half, Binghamton (2-5) forced the Orange (8-1) into 10 turnovers, matched their 21 rebounds, and held a 9-6 edge on the offensive glass. Maybe that loss to No. 5 Oklahoma State in the Jimmy V Classic on Tuesday was still haunting them.

"You want to put it behind you. No matter what, no matter how hard you play, it's a long season and you're going to have to lose some games," said Warrick, who missed only one of six free throws after botching eight against the Cowboys. "It's good to go out there and get experience early in the year against a tough team. We just have to put it behind us and learn from it, and tonight was a good step forward."

No. 18 Alabama 75, Temple 71: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Earnest Shelton scored 22 points, and Alabama hit six of 10 free throws in the final 62 seconds.

The Crimson Tide (8-1) led by 12 points early in the second half.

Men's Top 25 Roundup

But the Owls (3-4), paced by Mark Tyndale's 22 points and seven rebounds, rallied with seven three-pointers in the first 13 minutes after the break.

Jermareo Davidson had 16 points, 13 rebounds and three blocked shots for the Tide. Chuck Davis finished with 14 points and Ronald Steele had 12.

No. 21 George Washington 79, St. Francis, Pa. 65: At Loretto, Pa., Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored 17 points, and George Washington used a 20-2 run late in the first half to take control.

George Washington (6-1) was playing for the first time since knocking off ranked opponents Michigan State and Maryland on consecutive days last week. The Colonials are in the top 25 for the first time since 1998.

Jason Osborne led St. Francis (4-3) with a season-high 24 points, while Darshan Luckey added 18.

No. 22 Mississippi St. 83, Arkansas-Little Rock 53: At Starkville, Miss., Lawrence Roberts scored 21 of his season-high 27 points in the first half.

Roberts scored the Bulldogs' first 10 points, then keyed a 21-0 spurt late in the half which helped Mississippi State (7-2) seize control against Arkansas-Little Rock (4-4).

No. 25 Gonzaga 75, Saint Louis 45: At Spokane, Wash., Adam Morrison scored 20 points and Gonzaga (7-1) won despite just two points from Ronny Turiaf, who averages 23.

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Marquette's Travis Diener celebrates as he runs in front of his team's bench after hitting a three-pointer during the second half against No. 24 Wisconsin on Saturday night. Marquette beat the Badgers 63-54.

Deiner's 29 carries unbeaten Marquette

Eagles jump out to big early lead, hold on late vs. No. 24 Wisconsin

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Travis Diener and Mike Wilkinson played hurt but with very different results.

Diener scored 29 points despite aggravating a sprained ankle in the first half and led unbeaten Marquette past No. 24 Wisconsin 63-54 Saturday night.

"We've never held our halftime in the training room, but we moved the grease boards and everything in and we had guys sitting on Gatorade coolers and looking over shoulders," Golden Eagles coach Tom Crean said. "He did more than just play well, he led well."

Wilkinson was unable to do either. Bothered by a lower leg injury, the Badgers' senior big man and No. 2 scorer managed just two points and one rebound in 23 minutes and spent about half the game on the bench watching Marquette beat the Badgers at their own game: taking the ball to the basket and hitting the boards.

Marquette outrebounded the taller Badgers 44-28 behind senior Marcus Johnson's career-high 15, 12 on the defensive end, in just 21 minutes. Wisconsin had just four offensive boards.

Diener scored 10 points in Marquette's game-opening 12-1 upset and the Golden Eagles (9-9) led

thereafter in beating their instate rivals for just the second time in six tries under Crean.

After the improvised halftime talk and re-taping, Diener sank two three-pointers to start the second half and had 21 points to Wisconsin's 23, giving the Eagles a 40-23 lead.

"He was up to the challenge tonight," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan marveled. "He can score, he can find people. What else do you want in a point guard?"

As for his own gutsy player, Ryan regretted allowing Wilkinson to play.

"I normally have a policy that if a guy doesn't participate for two straight days he doesn't play," Ryan said. "I'll take the hit on that one. There was a shot in the second half where it was obvious he could not push off. We knew he had to come out."

Alando Tucker scored 13 points for the Badgers (5-2) and Sharif Chambliss added 12 points, but was dominated by Diener on both ends of the court.

Marquette's Steve Novak added 11 points, including a three-point shot that made it 52-40 with 4:42 left after the Badgers finally cut the deficit below double figures on Tucker's three-pointer.

The Badgers' mascot rallyed over the final five minutes but got no closer than six points, and the sellout crowd of 18,611 delighted in singing, "Over-rated!"

Stony Brook uses 7-0 run to top Navy in overtime

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Mike Orfili followed his tip-in with 90 seconds left in overtime with three more points during a 7-0 game-closing run as Stony Brook beat Navy 80-78 on Saturday night.

Antwan Hardy scored 19 points to lead Stony Brook (4-3). Center Cori Spencer chipped in with 16 points and added nine rebounds, helping the Seawolves to a 60-44 advantage on the boards.

Navy (3-5) used for the rebounding disadvantage by forcing a season-high 21 turnovers, eight over Stony Brook's season average.

Navy was led by David Hopper with 23 points. Matt Fanin scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Laramie Morgerson scored 12 points and blocked three shots.

Kansas makes Lafayette pay for payday

BY DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Ragin' Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette earned every nickel of that big paycheck Saturday night.

Dominant from the opening tip, No. 2 Kansas built an early 30-point lead and coasted to a 96-51 victory in a mismatch that guaranteed the outmanned visitors \$50,000.

Louisiana-Lafayette coach Robert Lee seemed almost reluctant to admit that he was the one who made the final decision to add the Kansas trip.

"We should shoot that guy," the first-year head coach said.

"Kansas gives us a nice payday. Hopefully we will use that for our program."

Keith Langford had 19 of his 24 points during a torrid first half and J.R. Giddens had 14 of his 16 before the break. Most of the starters for Kansas (6-0) went to the bench with more than 10 minutes left in the mismatch between the preseason favorite in the Big 12 and the three-time defending champion of the Sun Belt West.

Had they stayed in, several Jayhawks might have soared past their career highs.

"I wasn't disappointed," Giddens said of coming out so early. "That means my other teammates got to play and that's what it's all about. They deserve it because they make us better every day in practice."

Langford, after a slow start following knee surgery, has 62 points in his last three games. He was 7-for-9 in the first half as the Jay-



Kansas guard Keith Langford, left, drives past Louisiana-Lafayette's Brian Hamilton (45) for a first-half basket. No. 2 Kansas rolled 96-51.

hawks rolled up a 54-22 lead in their sixth straight home game.

"To tell you the truth, I probably wasn't being as aggressive as I should have," Langford said. "We got some floor time out of guys who don't get to play as much, and that's good for them. I'd have been fine if I hadn't even played the second half."

Louisiana-Lafayette (3-4) was led by Tyrus Wade and Brian Hamilton with 12 points each. The Ragin' Cajuns got no closer than 35 points after the first seven minutes of the second half. They shot only 32 percent.

"We got a chance to play a lot of guys," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "Louisiana-Lafayette has played better than they did tonight."

Wayne Simien had 11 points and 12 rebounds before resting with 10:45 left.

He game, never competitive, began getting completely out of hand midway through the second half, when Aaron Miles stole the ball at midcourt and drove in for a basket and a 65-27 lead. A moment later, Simien hit a short jumper and the lead climbed to 40.

"They sat in a zone and Keith and J.R. made some big shots to get them out of the zone," Simien said. "It was curtains after that."

The Ragin' Cajuns got it down to 35 on Dwayne Mitchell's three-pointer, but freshman Alex Galindo's three-pointer with 6:59 left put Kansas on top 80-39.

The loss kept the Cajuns winless in five road games this season.

"We just didn't do a good job on defense," Lee said. "Even against our zone, Langford was able to penetrate."

Wade, Hamilton and Orien Greene had combined to average 44.9 points in the Cajuns' first six games. But they totaled only 28 against the Jayhawks.

"Shooting is a question mark with this team," Lee said.

"With us not being able to execute, we had the wrong guys taking shots."

A's reportedly trade Hudson to Dodgers

BY RICK HURD AND JOE RODERICK

Contrast Coast Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Tim Hudson sweepstakes apparently came to a conclusion late Saturday night at the Anaheim Marriott. The winner: The Los Angeles Dodgers.

Hudson's agent confirmed Saturday that the Oakland Athletics will trade Hudson to the Dodgers for right-handed pitcher Ernie Lathan and minor-league infielder Antonio Perez. The deal was expected to be announced on Sunday.

"I spoke with an executive from another team, and that's what I've heard," agent Paul Cohen said. "Until I hear from the principals, that's where we stand."

A's spokesman Jim Young told the Contra Costa Times he wasn't aware that any

L.A. sending two prospects to Oakland

deal had been made. General Manager Billy Beane couldn't be reached.

The apparent deal came after a 48-hour period in which several teams fought hard for Hudson, who may be the most attractive trade commodity on the market. Hudson, 29, will earn \$6.5 million next season in what will be the final season of his contract. He's expected to command at least \$13 million a season if he hits the free-agent market next winter.

Whether that happens is still unclear, but Beane reiterated Saturday that the A's would not make any trade contingent on the opposing club negotiating a contract extension for Hudson.

The deal officially will end the 4½-year reign of the A's Three Aces. Hudson was 92-39 with a 3.30 in six seasons with the A's. He was 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA in 27 starts in what proved to be his clearest run. His final A's season also was marred by a recurrence of a strained left oblique muscle, an injury that has plagued Hudson over the past three seasons.

In Jackson, the A's will receive one of the top pitching prospects in baseball, Jackson, a 21-year-old right-hander, has gone 4-2 in 12 appearances (eight starts) in the majors, and is a hard thrower and was highly coveted by the Arizona Diamondbacks at last season's trade deadline. The Dodgers' unwillingness to part with Jackson

was reportedly one of the reasons Los Angeles could not get a trade for Diamondbacks left-hander Randy Johnson.

The A's also will receive Perez, who hit 296 with 22 homers and 88 RBIs at Triple-A Las Vegas last season. With Perez's addition, the future of second baseman Mark Ellis falls into question. Ellis is eligible for arbitration, and the A's could now choose not to tender him a contract offer by Dec. 20 deadline.

The Baltimore Orioles and St. Louis Cardinals had been major players for Hudson. The A's reportedly had been pushing hard for left-hander pitcher Erik Bedard, but the Orioles were reluctant to part with him. The O's reportedly also have inquired about lefty Barry Zito, but it's unlikely the A's will trade another starting pitcher.

The Cardinals were reportedly offering pitchers Dan Haren and Rick Ankiel.

Free agent Pavano picks Yankees

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Carl Pavano decided Saturday he wanted to pitch for the Yankees, and his agent and New York closed in on a four-year contract worth about \$39 million.

Pavano called his agent, Scott Shapiro, on Saturday morning and informed him of his decision.

"No, I, he wants to win," Shapiro said.

Anaheim, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit and Seattle also sought the right-hander, 18-8 with a 3.00 ERA for Florida last season.

Shapiro said his next step was to meet with Yankees general manager Brian Cashman to finalize an agreement. Pavano and Shapiro met with the Yankees in New York last week, and Shapiro was confident a contract would be agreed to.

"We have to really hunker down and have some serious negotiations to hammer out the deal," Shapiro said.

The Yankees expect the agreement will be worth about \$39 million, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity, and the contract could contain an option for a fifth season.

"I'm hopeful because of his confidence," Cashman said.

New York also has a preliminary agreement with right-hander Jarret Wright on a \$21 million, three-year contract, but there may be a hitch in the deal. New York is still evaluating his physical exam, the baseball official said, and hasn't determined whether he passed it or failed it.

Cashman refused to discuss the matter and Wright's agent, Adam Katz, declined comment.

"He was healthy for us," Atlanta General Manager John Schuerholz said, "healthy as a horse."

Pavano had been wooed by the World Series champion Red Sox, with Curt Schilling inviting him to his home last month. A native of New Britain, Conn., he began

his professional career in the Boston organization, and was traded to Montreal in the 1997 deal that brought Pedro Martinez to the Red Sox.

"The Red Sox are an incredible organization. Obviously he's got a soft spot in his heart for them," Shapiro said. "It's been a real difficult decision for him... It's about Carl being happy where he's living and where he's playing."

Earlier in the day, former Yankee David Wells made a surprising decision to pitch for the Yankees, reaching a preliminary agreement on an \$8 million, two-year contract with the Red Sox that could be worth up to \$18 million.

New York also has been talking with left-hander Eric Milton, who wants a \$24 million, three-year deal, and could bring back Orlando Hernandez.

Pavano, who turns 29 next month, has been probably the most sought-after of the top-level free-agent pitchers. In addition to New York and Boston, he also visited Detroit and Seattle.

Smoltz returning to rotation after Braves trade for closer

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Atlanta acquired All-Star closer Johan Santana from the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday for prized pitching prospect Jose Capellan and a player to be named, allowing the Braves to move John Smoltz back into the starting rotation.

"We felt this was the strongest way for us to rebuild our pitching staff," Atlanta General Manager John Schuerholz said.

The Braves declined to offer salary arbitration to free-agent starter Russ Ortiz, who signed with the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday. Jarret Wright, who also won 15 games for Atlanta last season, has a preliminary agreement with the Yankees, though there might be a hitch in that deal because New York was still evaluating the results of his physical.

Regardless, the Braves knew they needed help for their rotation.

They found it on their own roster in Smoltz, who won 24 games and the NL Cy Young Award as a starter in 1996 before moving to the bullpen full-time in 2002.

He set an NL record that year with 55 saves, joining Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley as the only pitchers with seasons of 55 saves and 20 wins.

Smoltz had volunteered to fill whichever role the Braves wanted next season, but his preference was to start. Schuerholz called Smoltz as a courtesy Saturday afternoon to let him know they were taking him up on the offer.

"I didn't want him to hear it from 'y'all," Schuerholz said.

He was delighted. He was very happy.

"It's nice when one of your leaders is willing to do whatever is needed. We need him to start," the GM said.

Heavyweight champ Kiitschko pummels Williams

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Vitali Klitschko won a big heavyweight title fight by giving Danny Williams such a savage beating that his hand hurt badly from hitting Williams so much. That accomplished, he headed Sunday for Ukraine, where an even bigger fight awaits outside the ring.

Klitschko established himself as the heavyweight to beat among the various champions by knocking Williams down four times so early Sunday night before finally stopping him in the eighth round of a fight that left the lesser beaten, battered and battered.

He did it while wearing an orange flag on his trunks signifying his support for Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko.

The gesture was seen by millions of Ukrainians who stayed up late or got up early to watch the fight on national television at 6 a.m. Sunday.

Right after leaving a hospital where x-rays on his left hand

proved negative, Klitschko turned his attention to the crisis gripping his nation and his desire for democracy in Ukraine.

"This win was very important for the people. It was a gift of good nature," Klitschko told The Associated Press early Sunday morning. "It was not enough to show a good fight but to show that we're together as a people."

Klitschko, who has been considered pulling out of the Williams fight because of the turmoil in his native land, instead used the fight as both a showcase for his skills and his desire to see Yushchenko elected in the Dec. 26 re-election in Ukraine.

He was successful in both, giving Williams the beating that Mike Tyson couldn't administer and then sending a message to his countrymen who watched the fight.

"I hope this fight supports people who fight themselves for democracy," Klitschko said. "I will win the fight with my skills and win the fight for freedom in our country."

Sports briefs

Klitschko now lives in Los Angeles but travels often to his homeland, where he and his brother, Vladimir, grew up as the sons of a helicopter pilot in the Soviet Union's armed forces.

But his brothers have been vocal in their support of Yushchenko, and Vladimir joined tens of thousands of protesters last month in Freedom Square in Kiev. When he spoke to the crowd and relayed the support of his brother.

"I'm really proud of the people in Ukraine," Klitschko said. "This game they are playing is very dangerous."

Montgomerie stays on Target

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Colin Montgomerie played a big shot Saturday, overcoming a few bloopers and a pairing with Tiger Woods to post a 4-under 67 and take a two-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.

Montgomerie was hardly intimidated playing with the tournament host, needing only four holes to get four shots between them on the leader board.

And when Jay Haas made a charge into the lead, the 41-year-old Scot responded with a 4-iron into 8 feet for eagle on the par-5 16th and a 9-iron into 8 feet for another birdie on the 17th to finish at 13-under 200.

Woods recovered from a terrible start — 3 over after four holes — with a birdie-par-birdie finish for a 69 that left him two shots behind along with Haas (67) and Jim Furyk, who birdied five of his last six holes for a 67.

Miguel Angel Jimenez had the low round of the day at 66 and was another shot behind.

Miller wins giant slam

VAL D'ISERE, France — World Cup overall leader Bode Miller won a giant slam on the second time this season Sunday, rallying from fourth place in the opening leg.

Miller, who took the season-opening giant slam but failed to complete the one in Beaver Creek, Colo., converted the shadowy course in a combined time of 2 minutes, 20.66 seconds. The American needed to make up 0.30 seconds after the first run.

"It's such a tough course," said Miller, who won his weight in local wine — about 90 bottles — in addition to his prize money.

Miller now has the overall standings with 630 points, a whopping 291 ahead of second-place Hermann Maier, who finished third on Sunday.

NHL World Stars beat Russians in shootout

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Mats Sundin and Ilya Kovalenko scored in a penalty shootout, securing victory for the NHL World Stars in a two-game series against Russia.

The World Stars won 5-4 on Sunday to tie the series 1-1 after losing 5-4 to the Russians in Moscow on Saturday.

SPORTS



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Hudson from A's; Pavano
heading to N.Y., Page 31

USC's Leinart wins Heisman

Past two winners will make history when they play for national title

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Matt Leinart got a hearty handshake and a bear hug from Jason White, one Heisman Trophy winner congratulating the other.

The next time the two compete will be far less cordial — and a lot more historic.

Leinart won the Heisman on Saturday night and set up the first game in college football history featuring two players with Heisman trophies.

The Southern California quarterback faces White's Oklahoma Sooners on Jan. 4 in the Orange Bowl with a national title on the line.

"I know they're going to be coming after me," Leinart said of the Sooners.

White had a chance to become just the second two-time Heisman winner, joining Ohio State tailback Archie Griffin (1974 and '75).

Instead he finished third, behind Leinart and Oklahoma freshman Adrian Peterson.

Leinart and White talked before the ceremony, and the Sooners' quarterback predicted the outcome.

"He said, 'Get ready for your speech,'" Leinart said. "I was like, 'Come on, man.'"

As a former winner, White had a vote. He said he put Peterson No. 1 on his ballot and Leinart second. The third spot he left blank and let someone else — he wouldn't say who — fill it out.

White said he still doesn't know who that person picked.

"I think Matt showed great character on the field and leadership," White said.

Leinart talked to White during the summer about winning the award.

"He said it changed his life," Leinart said.

Last year, Leinart succeeded 2002 Heisman winner Carson Palmer with a splendid sophomore season that set him up as the preseason favorite in 2004.

Leinart has delivered, throwing for 2,990 yards and 28 TDs and leading the top-ranked Trojans to a 12-0 regular season.

The junior is USC's sixth Heisman winner, tying the Trojans with Ohio State for second-most behind Notre Dame's seven.

"I remember when Carson was sitting up here," Leinart said. "He said his heart was beating out of his chest. I think mine's about to do the same thing."

Utah quarterback Alex Smith was fourth, and Leinart's teammate Reggie Bush was fifth in the voting.

Leinart received 1,325 points and won all but one of the six voting regions. He came in third in the Southwest, where White led with 263 points and Peterson was second with 197.

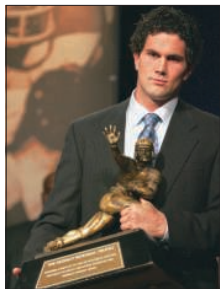
Peterson received 997 overall points, edging out White (957) for second. Peterson's second-place finish is the best by a freshman.

Georgia's Herschel Walker (1980) and Georgia Tech's Clint Castleberry (1942) had the previous freshman high when they placed third.

Michael Vick was a redshirt freshman at Virginia Tech when he was third in 1999.

Smith, who has led Utah to a berth in the Bowl Championship Series, received 635 points, and Bush, the Trojans' explosive and versatile tailback had 597.

SEE HEISMAN ON PAGE 27



Southern Cal's Matt Leinart picks up the Heisman Trophy he won on Saturday.

Manning within passing distance



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes in the Colts' 23-14 victory over the Houston Texans on Sunday. Manning needs three more touchdown passes to break Dan Marino's NFL single-season touchdown pass record. See story on Page 26.



Pats coordinator
Weis likely choice
as Irish coach

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Duckett carries
Falcons to
NFC South title

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Unbeaten Marquette upsets No. 24 Wisconsin

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